

SECTION XVIII
LOCAL COMMITMENT

XVIII. OBTAINING LOCAL COMMITMENT FOR THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

A. INTRODUCTION

During the drafting of the Town's LWRP, considerable public involvement and attention has been focused on the document in its various sections and draft stages, and on particular projects. Community involvement in the LWRP process has included meetings of the Town's Waterfront Advisory Committee, a public opinion survey, public hearings before the Planning Board, widely attended public meetings on draft policy sections, a boater and marina survey, Town Board review at public meetings, presentations to Citizen's Advisory Committees of the Wainscott and Springs communities, television programs on Local TV public access cable channel 27, extensive press coverage, and public meetings for LWRP-related projects. Notes and/or minutes of most meetings have been kept on file in the Town Planning Department or the Town Clerk's office, depending on who convened the gathering.

There have also been meetings, correspondence and telephone contacts, solicited and unsolicited, between Planning Department personnel working on the LWRP and private citizens and user groups interested in particular aspects of the plan. Overall, public comments have resulted in a great number of beneficial changes and revisions of the LWRP document.

Following is a summary of meetings and other public occasions which have resulted in a wide and substantive public airing of LWRP issues, and which is expected to provide broadened public understanding of, and support for LWRP initiatives.

B. TOWN WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Resolution #523 of May 5, 1989 the Town Board appointed a Waterfront Advisory Committee (WAC) to oversee development of the LWRP. At its formation the committee included eight citizen members representing a cross section of community interests including commercial fishing, charter boatmen, recreational water users, environmentalists, and baymen. Town Councilperson and later Supervisor Cathy Lester, Town Trustee Tom Knobel, succeeded by Trustee Assistant Clerk Jim McCaffrey, Planning Director Lisa Liquori, Natural Resources Director Larry Penny, and Senior Town Harbormaster Bill Taylor, served on the WAC as ex-officio members to advise and consult on coastal-related matters. In the course of time one committee member, Captain Warren Hader, died of cancer. One member resigned in the first year, two others were inactive, and one new member was appointed. At completion of the Draft LWRP, active WAC members included Rameshwar Das, Chairman, Jim Ash, Lester Black, Brad Loewen, and Dick Mendelman. The WAC held more than 60 meetings, equivalent to thousands of man-hours, discussing, editing and refining the LWRP document. Table XVIII-1 lists meetings of the WAC.

C. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

In August, 1989 the WAC conducted a public opinion survey to determine what coastal issues were of importance to Townspeople, and how people were using or enjoying coastal resources in their daily lives. 341 people responded to the survey, about 2/3 year-round residents and 1/3 seasonal residents. The responses reflected a generally high degree of public awareness of the coastal environment. 137 respondents included narrative recommendations on coastal issues of importance to them. A question regarding frequency of use of coastal resources showed that over 90% enjoy coastal views, 83% swim, 67% enjoy subbathing on the beach, and about 40% fish, picnic, or hike, and about 30% clam, sail or use power boats. A complete tally of the survey results is on file in the Town Planning Department.

TABLE XVIII-1: Meetings of the East Hampton Town Waterfront Advisory Committee

1. May 5, 1989	33. March 14, 1994
2. May 15, 1989	34. March 28, 1994
3. May 31, 1989	35. April 18, 1994
4. June 12, 1989	36. May 2, 1994
5. June 19, 1989	37. May 16, 1994
6. June 26, 1989	38. June 6, 1994
7. July 17, 1989	39. June 27, 1994
8. October 17, 1989	40. July 18, 1994
9. October 30, 1989	41. October 17, 1994
10. November 13, 1989	42. January 9, 1995
11. November 27, 1989	43. March 6, 1995
12. December 18, 1989	44. March 20, 1995
13. January 22, 1990	45. April 24, 1995
14. February 5, 1990	46. November 6, 1995
15. March 5, 1990	47. December 11, 1995
16. March 26, 1990	48. February 12, 1996
17. April 2, 1990	49. March 11, 1996
18. April 23, 1990	50. March 18, 1996
19. May 7, 1990	51. March 25, 1996
20. May 21, 1990	52. May 13, 1996
21. June 4, 1990	53. June 17, 1996
22. June 25, 1990	54. July 22, 1996
23. July 9, 1990	55. November 18, 1996
24. October 1, 1990	56. December 9, 1996
25. November 19, 1990	57. January 13, 1997
26. January 23, 1992	58. April 7, 1997
27. May 6, 1992	59. May 12, 1997
28. May 11, 1992	60. September 22, 1997
29. October 19, 1992	61. January 12, 1998
30. November 16, 1992	62. August 31, 1998

31. March 29, 1993
32. June 28, 1993

63. September 28, 1998

Dates are from meeting notices and minutes on file in the Town Planning Department.

D. BOATER AND MARINA SURVEY

In the summer of 1990 the Town Natural Resources Department conducted a townwide Boater and Marina survey in response to NYS DEC closure of additional shellfishing areas near marinas under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). The purpose of the survey was to assess the accuracy and local applicability of the boat use formula used in determining required closures under the NSSP standards. Two employees visited the 35 East Hampton marinas throughout the summer on a random basis. Personal interviews were chosen as a survey technique to obtain an accurate population count, to increase public awareness about the East Hampton water quality problems and to clarify why the Town was questioning boat owners and marina operators.

The boater population in East Hampton waters was measured for boater occupancy, jurisdiction of registration, waste treatment and disposal, and boat use patterns. Results were used to estimate the true amount of boat waste pollution reaching the marine environment and to provide more accurate information to the NYS DEC concerning the need for shellfish closures. In addition, the survey provided information to identify how pollution could be reduced through improved services and education.

Results of the survey showed that actual occupancy of boats in marinas was much lower than the assumptions of the NSSP, which applied to the formulas for shellfish closures, would yield a much smaller acreage of closed shellfish beds. The survey also yielded useful information regarding types of MSD's, their use, and impact on septic loading of surface waters, data which was helpful in determining Town strategy for installing pumpout facilities and in applying for *No-Discharge Zone* designations. Detailed results of the survey and its methodology are in file in the Town Planning Department.

E. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings on the LWRP have been held in a variety of local forums, under the auspices of the Waterfront Advisory Committee, Town Board, Town Trustees, Planning Board, Planning Department and community Citizens Advisory Committees. Some, such as a February, 1992 public information meeting on the Water Resources section, have been large Town meetings where extensive input was received, and later incorporated or responded to in the document. A number of these meetings were televised and shown several times on public access television, LTV Channel 27. Others have been smaller working meetings, such as a series of presentations by the WAC and Planning Department at Town Board work sessions, which were nonetheless extensively reported on in the local press. A variety of meeting notes, agendas, and records of public comments are on file in the Planning Department recording such meetings to varying extent. A summary list follows.

TABLE XVIII-2: Public Meetings for the LWRP

Date	Venue/Sponsor	Subject of meeting
8/7/89	Town Hall, WAC	Public scoping on LWRP issues and concerns
3/9/90	Town Hall, Planning/WAC	Draft Public Access map & recommendations
5/22/91	Town Hall, Planning Board	Adoption of Public Access section into Town Comprehensive Plan
6/12/91	Town Hall, Planning Board	Adoption of Significant Habitats section into Town Comprehensive Plan
2/26/92	EH Firehouse, Planning Dept.	Draft Water Resources section
5/27/92	Town Hall, Planning Board	Adoption of Water Resources section into Town Comprehensive Plan
6/23/95	Town Hall, WAC/Town Bd	Draft Flooding and Erosion section
8/7/95	Accabonac Protection Cmte	Presentation on Flooding and Erosion section
8/18/95	Town Hall, Town Board	Hearing, Harbor Protection Overlay District (HPOD)
8/6/96	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Flooding and Erosion section
8/22/96	Town Hall, WAC/Town Board	Slide presentation/discussion on Flooding and Erosion section
9/24/96	LTV, Supervisor	TV presentation of Flooding and Erosion, slideshow
9/25/96	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Public Access/Recreation section

Date	Venue/Sponsor	Subject of meeting
10/18/96	Town Hall, WAC/Town Board	Presentation/discussion on Public Access/Recreation section
10/24/96	Montauk Firehouse, Town Board	Work group on harbor management for Lake Montauk
10/28/96	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Significant Habitats and Commercial Fishing sections
11/19/96	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Development, Agricultural Lands, Historic and Visual Resources sections
11/20/96	Montauk Coast Guard, Town Bd	Work group on harbor management for Lake Montauk
12/17/96	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Water and Air Resources sections
12/19/96	Montauk Coast Guard, Town Bd	Work group on harbor management for Lake Montauk
1/7/97	Ashawagh Hall, Springs CAC	LWRP overview
1/9/97	Montauk Coast Guard, Town Bd	Work group on harbor management for Lake Montauk
2/5/97	Montauk Coast Guard, Town Bd	Work group on harbor management for Lake Montauk
2/11/97	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session on Projects section
3/4/97	Ashawagh Hall, Springs CAC	Presentation on Projects section
6/25/97	E End Supervisors & Mayors	Presentation on proposed Scenic Areas (SASS) study
8/27/97	E End Supervisors & Mayors	Follow-up on proposed SASS study
11/19/97	Springs School, WAC, schl bd	Presentation on proposed Environmental Education Center

Date	Venue/Sponsor	Subject of meeting
12/2/97	Ashawagh Hall, Springs CAC	Water Resource issues
12/3/97	Ashawagh Hall, Sprgs Impr Soc	Presentation on proposed Environmental Education Center
1/22/98	Montauk Firehouse, Town Board, Trustees, WAC, CCOM, AMI	Meeting with marina owners on proposed No-Discharge Zones
2/12/98	Ashawagh Hall, Springs CAC	Planning work group for Springs
4/8/98	Southampton Col., NRD/WAC	Presentation on erosion and climate change
4/14/98	Town Hall, Town Trustees	No-Discharge Zones
4/16/98	Town Dock, Town Board, Trustees, WAC, CCOM, AMI, Montauk Harbor Assn., USCG	Press conference on NDZ, launch of Trustee pumpout boat
5/21/98	Ch. 27 Rvhd, Bay Show, PEP	Peconic Estuary, water quality, LWRP & NDZ
9/19/98	Montauk Firehouse, CCOM	Annual meeting, talks on hurricanes, LWRP
10/13/98	Town Hall, Town Trustees	Presentation on Draft LWRP
10/15/98	Ch. 27, East End Show, LTV	TV interview, LWRP
10/20/98	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session, presentation on LWRP Draft
4/15/99	Town Hall, Town Board	Town Board public hearing on LWRP Draft
11/16 /99	Town Hall, Town Board	Work session, review LWRP comments & draft Erosion Law

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A large number of comments and suggestions, oral and written, have been received from the public and from officials of many agencies, in response to the meetings above, to media publicity, or the Town's request. Many suggestions have been incorporated into the LWRP, but the comments and correspondence themselves are too voluminous to include in the LWRP document. Notes of comments and copies of correspondence are on file in the Town Planning Department.

G. PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA

The local press, particularly the East Hampton Star, have done an exemplary job in presenting and explaining to the public the complex and detailed contents of the LWRP. Clippings are on file in the Planning Department, and more exhaustive records are available in the local library or from the newspapers themselves.

The local public access cable television station, LTV Channel 27, has televised a number of the Town Board meetings and public hearings where LWRP issues have been presented, and have on several other occasions provided their studios and technical assistance for producing programs on LWRP policies.

The Town has published a "*Boater's Guide to Water Protection*" brochure (1997), and as noted in **Proposed Projects, Section XIV**, plans a broad public education effort both on specific LWRP issues and initiatives, and on the overall local program. During summer of 1998 the Town began a print advertising and direct mail program to inform boaters of the impending *No-Discharge Zone* initiative. As a result of the ad campaign and an April press event, several local and regional papers produced feature stories on the *NDZ*. In addition, community groups including CCOM and the Montauk Harbor Association have published a boater's guide (1995), as has the AMI (Association of Marine Industries) (1998), and the Peconic Estuary Program has published an "*Ultimate Guide to the Peconic Estuary*" (1998). Another LWRP **Project**, a Town Scenic Survey begun in November 1999, received local press and editorial coverage, was exhibited in the East Hampton and Montauk Public Libraries, and was shown in video form on LTV Channel 27, local public access television.