

# Hampton Waters



PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

HAMPTON WATERS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. PO BOX 1332 EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK 11937 HWPOA.COM

## 2019 WINTER NEWSLETTER



### Dear Residents,

As I write this newsletter to you, we are in the middle of winter here in East Hampton, and it was 40 degrees today. Winter greetings to all !!!

This letter is a review of our association's efforts in 2018, an update of future projects, and a few of my opinions for you to think about. Also included in this envelope, is an invoice for our association's 2019 member dues. Checks may be mailed to the HWPOA address above or paid online at our website – [www.hwpoa.com](http://www.hwpoa.com)

I must also thank all those members, separate from our board, who have taken initiatives on their own to make improvements for the greater good of our community. This includes efforts to bring town water to Peter's Path, all the email support, feedback, and encouragement residents have shown our board. Every effort small or large is valuable.

Best to all,  
John O'Rourke, HWPOA President  
February 9, 2019

### The HWPOA Board is Proud to List our Efforts & Activities this Past Year.

#### March 16

A smooth leadership transition was accomplished after the resignation of former HWPOA President, David Mazujian. The board welcomed the temporary appointment of Antonia Kousoulas to fill the vacancy after Antonia reached out to us and expressed her interest in getting involved.

#### June 2

By-Laws Discussion Meeting - Organization of a meeting to discuss proposed new bylaws with residents, and to vote on an amendment to the existing bylaws which would allow for absentee & proxy voting at the Annual Meeting by all members in good standing. The turnout for this meeting, though small in number, gave valuable criticism and suggestions for changing the bylaws. Also, the vote amending the existing bylaws to accommodate absentee and proxy voting in the future was unanimously approved.

#### July 21

Annual Members Meeting – Preparing for a vote for the proposed new bylaws was a large undertaking on the part of the HW board for more than a year and a half. This included legal counsel and feedback from the community. At this meeting residents were at times opinionated, and engaged in a vigorous, healthy discussion with other residents and with board members. This was the first time Hampton Waters members were allowed to vote by absentee or by proxy for both the new bylaws and the board elections. This gave many residents who were not able to attend the meeting a chance to vote. The bylaw changes were passed at this meeting by a total vote of 104–In Favor, and 44–Not in Favor. Members present at the meeting accounted for 45 of the votes and, absentee, and proxy votes accounted for the remaining. Controversial tools such as liens for unpaid dues & mandatory dues are included in these new bylaws but have not as yet been implemented. In addition to regular business, Antonia Kousoulas was officially elected to the board, as well as additional terms for Scott O'Neil – Secretary, and Guido Auen – Treasurer.

#### August 16

Repairs, and the addition of a small bench to the bulkhead/dock at the end of Island Road, were completed. The bulkhead/dock is open for use by all members of HWPOA in good standing.

#### August 25

HWPOA Annual Summer Party. The board took a slightly different approach this year. Instead of providing more substantial food choices, we offered a more cocktail-like atmosphere with composed passed hors d'oeuvres, prosecco, white wine, and Aperol spritzes. The party was held on a beautiful afternoon at the home of Arthur Beckenstein and John O'Rourke, children and a couple of charming dogs topped off a very pleasant, fun gathering of neighbors.

#### November 16

Five hundred daffodil bulbs were planted on the green at the end of Island Road, in a continuing effort by the board to

enhance the look of select Hampton Waters community properties.

### **December 15**

For those of you who are not around during the holiday season, pine garlands & red ribbons garnished the signs at all three entrances to Hampton Waters.

The HWPOA Board met a total of seven times in 2018, primarily from spring to fall, as business dictated. In a fall meeting, the board elected John O'Rourke to fill the role as president, and Barbara Strauss as vice-president. This new way of designating the roles of board members was part of the newly adopted bylaws, allowing for more flexibility, easier transitions, and team recognition of each members talents.

### **Town of East Hampton Purchase**

It has been reported to me by a member of the East Hampton Town board, that the town is *"in contract"* to purchase 16 Oyster Shores Road. The town uses monies from the Community Preservation Fund to purchase waterfront properties like these, in order to protect wetlands from contamination, and eliminate septic tanks. In these cases, the owner is usually responsible for removing the house and the septic system. Previously, the town purchased 18 & 20 Oyster Shores Road. The town has a management plan for number 18 & 20, and plans to follow these same guidelines for number 16 Oyster Shores Road. Together, all three properties will offer passers-by an acre and a half long, beautiful waterfront vista. An effort is underway by our association to encourage the town to control the very invasive, non-indigenous phragmites (tall common reed) along the water's edge in this area.

### **Litter-ally Speaking**

Mike's Hard Lemonade - (12 bottles), Assorted Cans of Beer, One Gallon of Jack Daniels - (empty), Take-Out Containers, Plastic Candy Wrappers, Wet Tee Shirts, Plastic Shopping Bags, and Pizza Boxes

No, it's not the shopping list for the next Hampton Waters Annual Party. Shamefully, it is the litter I have picked up in Hampton Waters over the last month. If I had someone to blame, I would. It is hard for me to believe that any resident of HW is responsible. I tend to think it is some of the many people who pass in cars through our little hamlet – service providers, construction workers, landscapers, service providers or, kids.

Littering is a crime in East Hampton, NY punishable by a \$300 to \$5,000 fine. Hampton Waters has no sanitation department that picks up this trash. And, no one ever told me that it is solely the responsibility of the HW board to collect street trash. It bothers me that trash sits at the entrances (especially Oyster Shores Road) while residents pass by daily.

Unfortunately, trash is a fact of life. I politely encourage you, *if you see it, and if you have a minute – pick it up - for the good of all who live here.*

### **A Few Plans for 2019**

#### **Entrance Signage**

Arthur Beckenstein, a longtime HWPOA board member and graphic designer, is working on new signs for the three HW

entrances. Arthur designed the current signs 23 years ago. These signs are in various stages of decline with rotted frames, and unstable posts.

The Town of East Hampton must approve these signs according to their size, and design guidelines. In addition, the location of each sign must be re-approved by the town even though these signs have existed in these locations for many, many years. Each location presents a different challenge. The location at Oyster Shores & Springy Banks is owned by our association, and must be surveyed before the town will consider our proposal. At Oyster Pond Lane & Springy Banks, the sign is positioned between a private property and a street buffer. Approval of the owner of the adjoining property will be required. And lastly, the sign location at Springwoods Lane & Springy Banks Road will require town approval because it borders a nature preserve. Some of these requirements are already in process, and it is our hope that we can accomplish new signage this year.

#### **Kayak Racks**

There is some positive movement here. Recently, the Town of East Hampton flagged the community owned green at the end of Island Road to define the exact wetland area there. Now, in March, that land will be surveyed, and our board will be able to consider the best placement for kayak racks. Generally, at this point, the idea is to keep the racks natural and unobtrusive looking. Forty or so of our members have expressed interest in reserving a place for their kayaks. The number of kayak slots at this location will be small. One HW resident/member has made an offer to cover the cost of these racks. The board is also considering the impact of parking on that street as we continue to work on this project.

#### **Walkway**

The walkway to the beach at the intersection of Oyster Pond Lane and Oyster Shores Road has a long and troubled history. This community owned path of land that stretches from the road to a small beach is a wonderful pathway through wetlands. Originally, a wood walkway was erected over 20 years ago. It was then removed due to infringement on private property. Over the past few years, our association has tried to fund a new walkway with limited success. A separate, dedicated bank account currently has over 3 thousand dollars. We have asked a few marine builders to give us estimates to construct a new walkway. We already have approval and new specific rules from the DEC, and an approval by Town of East Hampton will also be required but frankly, all we need to go forward is money. Donations of \$50, \$100 or more that members have generously given, and which is very appreciated, is just not going to get us there in my lifetime. From my experience on the HWPOA board for over six years, I have come to realize that this project will require larger donations to be completed. Estimates are not in as yet but judging from past proposals the cost will most likely be in the area of \$25,000 to \$35,000. I would recommend that all residents, who are able, consider donating a much larger sum. Out of the 213 homes in HW, if only 30 members made a donation of \$1,000 we could be there. I respectfully ask you to give this some thought. It's an investment in the future, and will give residents a lot of pride and pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,  
John O'Rourke  
*HWPOA President*