

**Centerport Harbor Civic Association
General Membership Meeting, July 16,2024**

Present: Betsy Cambria, Bob Berding, Mike Regan, Jim Walker, Anne Wesp, and Carol Zwiulich

Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer's Report: CHCA's accounts' balances are \$9,011.52.

Guest Speakers:

- **Citizens' Campaign for the Environment, Adrienne Esposito (Executive Director): Horseshoe Crabs Campaign:** There is a New York State bill pending which prohibits the harvesting of horseshoe crabs, as their population is being greatly diminished partly by commercial fishermen who use them for bait. The bill has passed the senate and assembly. Now, it's under review at the Governor Hochul's office and, hopefully, awaiting her signature. Horseshoe crab harvesting was banned in Connecticut last October. Ms. Esposito requested the membership fill out a provided postcard which will be sent to the Governor, promoting the bill to prohibit the harvesting of horseshoe crabs.
- **Drinking Water Quality on Long Island.** The importance of maintaining the Long Island aquifers was stressed by Ms. Esposito. Our septic water mixes with our drinking water. Nitrogen is showing up in our drinking water. Nitrogen attracts algae. Ms. Esposito gave a very detailed overview of several different algae and how they adversely affect the environment.
- **Clean Water Referendum on November 5th:** Information regarding new sewer upgrades and septic change outs was provided by Ms. Esposito.
- **Dredge Materials:** Ms. Esposito noted that dredging materials from Connecticut rivers could often contain numerous contaminants.

Centerport Garden Club: Jackie Martin (Former President/Long Time Member): Ms. Martin gave a detailed overview on the garden club regarding its impressive community service. Highlighted in her presentation was the New Native Plant Garden at Washington Drive Elementary School, the maintenance of the Rose Garden at Vanderbilt Museum, and the Annual Plant Sale and Flower Show at Harborfields Library. At year end, the garden club makes wreaths and arrangements for the community.

Centerport Harbor Civic Association (CHCA): Anne Wesp (President):

- **Spotted Lantern Flies (SLF):** is an insect native to Asia that has spread to the United States. It is here on Long Island. It is a threat to our ecosystems and is negatively impacting agricultural economies, native trees and forests. **Recommended Course of Action is to kill them on sight.**
- **Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus:** Mosquitoes in our area have tested positive for West Nile Virus. A tell-tale sign of local presence of the West Nile Virus is the sighting of dead birds. The membership was encouraged to call the Department of Public Services' Public Health Hotline at 631-787-2200 (9:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday), if dead birds are found.

Tidal Gates on Mill Pond: The Town has agreed to open and close the gates (the Town has assumed the responsibility from the County).

- The Town is concerned about opening the gates as they don't want to risk damaging them. Gates will not be opened as much; therefore, the water will not be flushed as much.

Water Testing in Centerport, Mill Pond: Due to the Town's plan to limit frequency of the opening of the gates, CHCA wants increased testing of the water in the pond. Anne W. has emailed a detailed letter to the Town Board regarding this matter.

Centershore Road: It was suggested that the best way of remedying the pedestrian danger of Centershore Road would be to add a shoulder onto the road.

- Over the past several years, CHCA leadership and Town Board members and officials have participated in several walking tours of Centershore Road. Town Board officials saw firsthand the dangers present while walking along Centershore Road and made a commitment to proceed with property surveys to facilitate a future installation of shoulders along the road. An update on the status of the survey was requested of the Town. Mr. John McCarron, Town Deputy Supervisor, reported back to CHCA that the survey was not completed due to lack of funding in the Town's most recent budget. Ms. Wesp noted that she would send a letter on behalf of the CHCA to request funding for the surveys and for the shoulders to be placed in this year's upcoming Town budget.

Facebook Launch: There is a new CHCA Facebook page. Click on the QR code provided or search "Centerport Harbor Civic Association" and click on follow.

Jellyfish Update:

- **Article 78:** Ms. Wesp informed membership that all paperwork is due to the assigned judge on August 21, with oral arguments expected in September.
- **Town Planning Board, August 7, 2024, at 6:00pm at Town Hall:** The Town has sent this matter to the Town Planning Board. It was encouraged that all CHCA members attend and be prepared to use their three minutes to speak their minds. It was noted that the Town Planning Board would have to send information back to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), if it's deemed that variances are necessary.

Next General Membership Meeting:

- **Meet the Candidate Night: Congressional and State Candidates will be present:** September 26th, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Harborfields Library in the Large Meeting Room. There will not be an August General Membership meeting. Enjoy the summer!!