

Orient Association Annual Meeting Minutes- June 8th, 2024

2:00 Welcome - Barbara Friedman

Approval of Minutes

2023 Orient Association Annual Meeting Minutes approved unanimously

Introduction of Board Members

- Glynis Berry
- Emily Caufield
- Mark Levine
- Mark Reisenfeld
- Imogen Rose-Smith
- Erin Latham Stanton
- Daniel Watts
- Chris Wedge

Thank you to outgoing Board Members Jeri Wodehouse

Welcome to new Board Member Jane Asch

Revisions to By-Laws

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association is to uphold and sustain the interests of residents, businesses and organizations of Orient; *through regular communications and meetings which inform, educate, discuss and consider issues which affect them, advocating for, and giving a voice to, a well informed Orient community.* ~~by educating the public on subjects useful to individuals and beneficial to the community. The Association shall provide a forum through regular meetings to discuss, consider, and become informed about issues which concern residents, businesses and organizations of Orient.~~ The Association shall operate as an exempt, not-for-profit *501(c)(3)* educational organization pursuant to *U.S. and* New York State law.

ARTICLE IV

Section 2. The officers shall serve for a period of one year. After serving ~~three~~ *four* consecutive terms, no officer may be re-elected to that office until after the expiration of one intervening year but may be elected to another office.

After discussion these by-law revisions were approved with the words “advocating for” struck.

Nomination of 2024 Officers

Barbara Friedman – President
Drianne Benner – Vice President
Tony Asch – Treasurer
Nicole Garret – Secretary

Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Tony Asch provided an update of the Orient Association's finances.

President's Report- President Barbara Friedman and Vice President Dianne Benner reviewed OA's activities for 2023-2024.

- Forum on Town Code and enforcement
- Candidates Forum with candidates for local offices
- "Trash Talk", a discussion of composting and other ways we can reduce trash
- Earth Day Clean-up at Youngs Road beach
- Emergency Management Meeting with Southold Town officials: Don Fisher, Communications Coordinator, Dan Goodwin Superintendent of Highways and Al Krupski, Town Supervisor.
- Zoning Update Meeting with Heather Lanza and Mark Terry, the director and assistant director of the Southold Planning Department.

Communication

- Newsletters and Community Email Blasts throughout the year

Guest Speaker

Mary Anne Taylor from consulting firm CDM Smith presented a second report on the Orient water system.

Groundwater

Mary Anne reviewed and updated the groundwater findings presented in 2023.

Maximum thickness of aquifer in Orient is about 85 feet and thins near the coast.

The water from precipitation and recharge from septic balances with the water that is used keeping the water table stable. Important to note that much of the water is discharged to the sound and the bay. This discharge keeps saltwater intrusion at bay. This is another reason to maintain the water table.

The wells along the coast are vulnerable to saltwater intrusion, especially during the summer. High pumping inland can also cause saltwater intrusion.

Contaminants:

- Nitrogen- 18% tested above the Maximum Contamination Level (MCL)
 - health risks
 - key indicator of other contaminants
 - affects on surface water

PFAS -50% tested in Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services Survey area were exceeding MCL as of June 2024.

Climate Change- based on High Medium NY State Projections:

40 feet is the standard minimum fresh water thickness for potable supply well. By the year 2100 projected sea level rise will reduce the Orient aquifer by 20%. Over 250 homes will have less than the standard minimum of 40 feet and over 75 homes will have less than 20 feet.

Surface Water

Ecological Sensitivity Scorecard for Orient Harbor and Hallocks Bay indicates:

Dissolved Oxygen – generally very good

Nitrogen concentrations low and health of water is good

Pathogen levels are low

Narrow River does not flush out as easily and has had some excessive fecal coliform readings.

Water temperatures as measured in Long Island Sound have risen.

Challenges:

- Climate Change impacts
- Saltwater Intrusion
- Contaminants

Potential Solutions:

Wastewater Alternatives- pros and cons of each action was evaluated for final report recommendations

- No Action
- I/A OWTS Implementation
- Centralized Sewage Collection and Treatment System
- Fertilizer Management - PRBs/Biofiltration

Water Supply Alternatives- pros and cons of each action was evaluated for final report recommendations

- No Action
- Individual Home Treatment Systems
 - Point of Use
 - Point of Entry
- SCWA Supply to Orient
- SCWA Supply to Village
- New Village Supply

New Village Supply- this option is almost impossible and prohibitively expensive to implement

- Aquifer is not productive enough to have a centralized well or two
- Build a treatment plant
- Operate and Maintain the plant
- Build distribution system
- Test the water
- Set up an administrative structure for payroll and billing
- Vulnerable to sea level rise.

Example Actions for Immediate Implementation:

- Monitor private well quality (\$100 fee): Private Well Water Testing Program (suffolkcountyny.gov)
- Conserve water, particularly during the growing season – limit irrigated areas and irrigation
- Utilize available programs to dispose of products containing hazardous materials (e.g., oils and fuels, paints and solvents, pesticides, Hazardous Waste | Southold, NY - Official Website (southoldtownny.gov) and unused medications to pharmacies or ELIH
- Choose cleaning, household, and personal care products carefully
- Limited use of fertilizers

Questions and Feedback

4:00 pm Meeting Adjourned