



Conclusion.

This is but a brief moment in time as it relates to the long and rich history of change that has occurred in the Village of Sag Harbor. In an effort to capture some of the current vitality and desirability found in the Village commercial core, changes are recommended . . . hopefully those which will cause a lasting and positive effect on near future trends in the downtown of Sag Harbor.

“The downtown is the core of the community, and it reflects the community’s identify and character”

Suffolk County Planning Commission, May 2006

The planning strategies contained within this document offer opportunities for the future of the commercial district of the Village of Sag Harbor. They have been presented only after an evaluation of the existing conditions, observing the concerns expressed by the community, consideration of the historical changes that have taken place, and a review of appropriate planning studies and documents

regarding downtown development has been undertaken. This effort is an attempt to being responsive to the concerns raised by business persons and the local citizenry alike regarding the future of the Village.

To those that worry that the recommendations contained in this document may go too far: no changes are ever carved in stone . . . they can always be modified by Village Government if it is determined that the planned objectives are not accomplished. However not to act at this time would put the Village on a dangerous course, allowing the potential for a gradual conversion of the small-scale community shopping district to be transformed to something that doesn't reflect the essence of Sag Harbor.

So, the efforts being undertaken are recognized to be a mere "moment in time" in the history of Sag Harbor. Within the forward to Dorothy Zaykowski's book entitled "Sag Harbor : An American Beauty", Wilfred Sheed writes:

"When a newcomer approaches a Hampton with his wallet out, local beauty lovers tremble and zoning boards brace themselves until they know exactly what the fellow has in mind. But most of the new settlers to Sag Harbor get the point right away: They came here because they like it exactly as it is, and will fight anyone, even the locals themselves to keep it that way. . . ."

The effort undertaken by this planning study is in part to try to "keep it that way" - to maintain what has developed nicely with in the Village, some by lucky accident . . . and some by design.

It is believed that the development and adoption of implementing regulations to address the issues contained in this document will put the Village on a path which can preserve its essential character and identity, through maintaining the diversity that exists within the commercial retail community.

“A la Recherche Du Prosciutto Perdu”

“There is a pandemic illness abroad in East Hampton, the main symptom of which is wishing fervently and aloud, that favorite things from the past could somehow, just magically, come back. Where, oh where, has the Marmador gone? The chocolate dip-top at A & B Snowflake, the rackful of sneeze powders and handshake buzzers at the News Co., the ice skate sharpener at the Tillinghast hardware store, the crack-of-dawn coffee gang at the Chicken House, the rides at the Pony Farm?

“When we visited the Villa pork store this week, we witnessed a tap-dancing love-fest of beaming-customer warm and fuzzies. This demonstration of chatty, communal sentimentality was spurred by the news, as reported recently, that the Village has changed hands once again, and the new owners are an Italian family from Brooklyn. Nothing against the nice folks who ran it for five years, of course: It was just welcome news that this 30-year favorite lunch spot, home of the iconic Combo, was not, repeat not, going to be turned over to an international luxury prosciutto conglomerate.

“Rarely - actually, never, come to think of it - have our daydreams of backward time travel been so gratified . . . with fried ravioli, like a cherry, on the top.”

Editorial reprinted with permission from The East Hampton Star, East Hampton, New York, from the July 12, 2007 issue.

From the Letters to the Editor of the July 21,
2005 Edition of the Sag Harbor Express:

Small Town at its Best

Dear Bryan,

Once again, the residents of Sag Harbor and the surrounding communities are privileged to be able to listen to the Sag Harbor Community Band. The Band plays every Tuesday night from 8 to 9 p.m. in front of the American Legion Hall on Bay Street. The police block off Bay Street to auto traffic, so everyone can bring a chair and pick out a good spot to listen to good music. This, to me, is typical of small town America at its best. Even though we are only 3 hours from New York City, it feels like we are in the middle of Indiana or Kansas. When the band strikes up their signature song, "Now Is The Hour," I get goose bumps. It brings back fond memories for me. When I was going overseas, after being drafted into the Army, that was the song the band played as my ship left the dock. The last song is always "The Star-Spangled Banner." Everyone stands and faces the flag and sings. What a great free country we live in to be able to do things like that. So grab your chair and come on down to Bay Street and enjoy some great music. The band plays rain or shine. If the weather fails to cooperate the music is moved indoors to the Legion Hall. The concerts are held every Tuesday night until Labor Day. See you there.

Alan Alster
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