

Became Dictatorial

Wainscott

October 9, 2011

Dear David,

I was amused to read last week's letters by Don Cirillo and Laura Weir as they attempted to rewrite history on the events that occurred at the Wainscott Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting began to deteriorate when the supervisor refused to answer questions, became combative, and was disrespectful to those asking legitimate questions. A member of the Wainscott C.A.C. called Quiet Skies Coalition a derogatory name. I raised an objection to the word used, and he apologized, as the minutes of the meeting reflect.

Instead of a democratic process of asking questions of candidates, the chairwoman became dictatorial and didn't allow Wainscott citizens to ask pertinent questions, thereby stifling the very freedoms we hold dear in America. As a result, one man became unruly and a handful of people rightfully walked out; for them the meeting was over. The chairwoman could have better served the community by restricting questions to Wainscott citizens; however, she unilaterally and unfairly shut everyone down who wished to ask a question about the airport.

Too much blood has been shed by patriotic Americans to give and maintain our freedoms of speech and democratic process. Sometimes discussions become passionate as is seen by our founding fathers and throughout history. Nothing that was said or done by Q.S.C. members was out of line. Everyone was justified and responsive to the supervisor's bullying tactics and the chairwoman's inappropriate actions. In my opinion the Q.S.C. was restrained and justified in their response. It is astonishing that this committee complains about other people when its members are accustomed to having debates end in fistfights as was reported several months ago. Nothing ever came close to that in this meeting. Q.S.C. took the high road.

I have attended meetings at the Wainscott Citizens Committee for several years, reporting about abusive helicopters terrorizing Wainscott neighborhoods. I was there to report about a helicopter that flew over my house that week. The helicopter was confirmed by AirScene (an airport tracking system) at an altitude 10 feet above the roof of my house.

The supervisor has ridiculed me about the videos I take to document helicopters flying "rooftop-level." In front of Town Hall one day he asked me if I could throw an egg at a helicopter. When I immediately replied "Yes," he laughed at me. I asked him a very simple and direct question based on the confirmation from AirScene: Will you take the hundreds of videos I shot more seriously? The supervisor never answered the question even when I reminded him.

A helicopter flying 10 feet over a house is reckless endangerment by anyone's standards. I have hundreds of videos documenting this type of reckless behavior and identified tail numbers of similar helicopters in 164 events in one year. It is government's duty to protect the people. It is shocking the supervisor will not acknowledge this in the face of documentary evidence and confirmation by the airport's own aircraft-tracking system, let alone answering a direct question about it. The supervisor's unwillingness to protect East Hampton citizens appears to reek of political cronyism at best, hopefully not corruption.

If anyone has doubts about who caused the reaction of the crowd at this meeting, please request an e-mail string from Q.S.C. or me. After the meeting I sent an e-mail requesting the record be corrected on a derogatory word that was used to describe the Q.S.C.. I received a venomous and berating response from the chairwoman. My response to her was calm and addressed her vicious attack of me and the Q.S.C. For the record, Q.S.C. is a politically diverse group. I am a lifelong registered

Republican but not an ideologue. I am finding libertarian principles expressed in the East Hampton Democratic Party candidates this year. They earned my support; perhaps fellow Republicans should take note.

Frank Dalene

Vice Chairman

Quiet Skies Coalition