

The Southampton Dispatch

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Preserving Our Community's Rural Heritage

June 2014

IMPORTANT MEETINGS:

Tuesday, June 17th, 8:00 PM - Township Committee Meeting

**THURSDAY, JULY 10TH, 7:30 PM - ZONING BOARD MEETING
(ALLIED WILL BE ASKING FOR A VARIANCE AT THIS MEETING)**

Allied to Appear before Zoning Board July 10th

Those of us within 200 feet of Allied Recycling's property line received letters informing us that Allied intends to go before the Zoning Board on July 10, 2014.

We know that they will be attempting to make the case that the recycling business is not identical to, but closely related to, the previous business of auto salvage. Our job will be to explain how this transformation is **substantially different** from the previous operation. In any point that we make at this meeting, we need to follow it up with the statement that what we just pointed out is NOT HOW IT WAS when the previous owners of Last Chance Auto Salvage operated out of this facility.

Please go through pictures from the past and see if you have any photographic evidence of the changes that have occurred to the site at 440 New Road. While the burden of proof is on Allied, we need to assist the Zoning Board by offering our own evidence to demonstrate substantial changes have occurred.



Questions for the Township Committee about Billboard: Meeting June 17th

Many of us who have been fighting since we first learned we had the right to fight the changes occurring at 440 New Road are upset about the new billboard. We would like to ask the Township Committee the following questions:

- Shouldn't the bidding contract have had language that would allow only rental by individuals, sole-proprietor, licensed-limited corporations, partnerships, or corporations in 'good standing' with proper licensing and without outstanding fines or penalties or other violations outstanding to rent billboard?

- Why did Southampton Township fail to uphold all good business sense and requirements in the rental of the billboard?
- Allied Recycling is renting the billboard without proper licensing and current estimation of fines outstanding exceeding \$100,000.00! Why is this acceptable?
- Have you seen the angle at which a right hand turn onto New Road from Route 206 would be executed? Now envision a large, over 4 ton truck doing the same thing....how on earth would it maintain the lane? Shouldn't advertising that encourages a dangerous situation to occur not be allowed?

Residents Meet to Discuss Concerns

On June 4, 2014, residents who are neighbors of Allied Recycling and other concerned citizens met to discuss the situation with Allied and what options (cont'd page 2)

Residents Meet (cont'd from page 1) we have to protect ourselves, our property, and our quality of life.

At this meeting, several important questions and points came up that should be answered or addressed by the Township Committee:

- Allied Recycling is operating without proper permissions as part of the 'non-conforming use variance' (see court finding report by the Honorable Judge Bookbinder)
- By admission of the owner/operator of Allied Recycling during hearings in the summer/fall 2013, truck traffic expectations on New Road will exceed 100 trucks per day. These are large dump trucks, nearly all exceeding the 4 ton limit posted.
- The large number of trucks abuses the 'local delivery' permission use of the road as these trucks deliver AND pick up; surely this is not permissible under the use and regulations. New Road cannot possibly support this type of traffic. The resulting overuse will impact infrastructure costs and result in higher taxes to township constituents. New Road is a small, 'no passing' road with no shoulder and has multiple school buses picking up and dropping off school-age children and youth; clearly a present danger to the safety of children and others on the road.
- There are large piles of uncovered tires on the property, and these tires have been breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Neighbors have noted an increase in these disease-carrying insects and point to the tire piles as the source despite spraying of BT

type insecticides by the Burlington County Health Department.

- By what measure is Allied Recycling's property taxes determined? While many of us had taxes increase, Allied had a decrease in taxes to just over \$1,700 per year. This amount is about 2/3 less than homeowners pay. Why were Allied's taxes reduced? Is Allied being taxed at the farm rate for land? Shouldn't there be a tax rate for business use regardless of the number of permanent structures on the property? Residents feel that the increased heavy truck traffic, noise of the 'dawn-to-dusk' operation, security lighting, possible ground water contamination, and disease-carrying insect populations will lead to lower property values and thus, lower resale values. If Allied is paying approximately \$1,700 per year, expect residents to appeal property tax values in the spring of 2015.
- The Township Committee should consider contacting the Pinelands Commission and other environmental agencies to investigate possible violations. It has been documented that Allied acted without permission and licensure to install a paved driveway on the business property on New Road. What other violations have occurred?
- It appears that the DEP has made one inspection or visit to this property. What are the regulations and inspection requirements for such an operation? What about groundwater testing and soil testing on the site and what is the industry standard or regulation?

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Support

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is supporting our efforts. If you would like to review the legal documents or other information, please visit:
<http://www.pinelandsalliance.org/protection/hotissues/development/alliedrecycling/>

**Please stay involved!
We need you!**

People/Agencies to Call



Please consider calling the following when you notice something or become concerned:

- **For questions asking if Allied Recycling at 440 New Road (please stress address) is meeting all DEP regulations**, call the DEP hotline at 1-877-927-6337.
- **For questions asking why Allied Recycling at 440 New Road (stress address) can operate a RECYCLING FACILITY without a permit**, call DEP Solid Waste at 609-292-9880.
- **For questions about operating a RECYCLING FACILITY within the Pinelands (at 440 New Road) without a permit**, call the Pinelands Commission at 609-894-7300.

