



2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
December 11, 2025

What a year! As 2025 wraps up, we look with pride at the part we have played in the ever-widening engagement of our community in conversations around civic matters. Some three years since our founding, we find ourselves poised for big community conversations that likely lie ahead: large development projects under consideration, the potential expansion of the Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library and all that could offer, the possibility of a YMCA on the North Fork, and finally, the completion of the Town zoning update project, an undertaking with far-ranging impact. We have worked diligently to build a reputation for sitting squarely at the center of community conversation around topics of significance such as these, and we welcome the opportunity to continue to get the conversations going.

With a strong and vibrant board, a small but mighty band of volunteer committee members, and an engaged community, we accomplished much this past year. We:

- **Offered** a full schedule of 8 informational meetings that covered a broad range of topics, from the inner workings of the highway department to Dark Sky initiatives to the local impact of climate change. Each program required 20 or more hours of volunteer time, from program planning to publicity. That's an impressive effort, but substantive programming enables us to foster the kind of community conversation that makes Cutchogue — indeed the entire North Fork — so vibrant. And not surprisingly, we often see an elected official or two in the audience to listen in.
- **Helped facilitate more community conversation** around the Town's proposed zoning updates. We now stand ready for the final conversations as this project nears completion.
- **Sparked even more community conversations** with our "morning after" coffee meet-ups: unstructured, casual conversations filled with ideas that spill over from the previous evening's meeting. Introduced last year, our meet-ups provide an opportunity for deeper discussion and exploration of new ideas.
- **Kept apprised** of Town Hall activities by attending dozens of Town meetings. The knowledge that was gained helped inform the topics we selected for our programs and reminded us what to keep an eye on.

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- **Surveyed** our community to learn what's on their minds. Not surprisingly, the topics of land use, development, and protection of the environment topped the list. The survey was met with great interest, and we were invited to write a guest column for *The Suffolk Times* about our findings.
- **Took time out** to enjoy each other's company at two social gatherings, in August and December. These get-togethers not only attracted new members, new volunteers, and mailing list sign-ups, but they also helped keep the conversation going and our members and friends connected.
- **Made the news:** from *The Suffolk Times* to the *East End Beacon*, our meetings received broad coverage. And new online media that appeared on the scene — *The North Fork Sun*, *North Fork Buzz* and *COMMPost* — provided additional opportunities for visibility. Why does that matter? Because the broader our reach, the more people we engage, and the better our conversations.
- **Marched** with enthusiasm — and a large banner — in the Cutchogue St. Patrick's Day and New Suffolk 4th of July parades.
- **Collaborated** with our fellow civic associations on programming and more. The North Fork Coalition of Civics provides a welcome avenue for all our hamlets to work collaboratively on matters of mutual interest.
- **Reviewed and proposed amendments to our bylaws** (to be voted on by members at the December 11 annual meeting), most notably addressing when and how we may take an advocacy position when it is based on clear support by our membership.
- **Continued to operate solidly in the black**, and we expect to end the year with approximately \$2,000 in the bank. Our membership dollars enable us to cover the small but essential administrative costs of running an organization.
- **Saw an increase** in the number of subscriptions to our emails, totaling 340. Of these subscribers, 110 are members. While we'd like to attract even more members, reaching beyond our membership is also vitally important in our efforts to get the word out.
- **Streamlined** our internal functions by transitioning to new software, greatly increasing our efficiency and productivity.
- In addition to our monthly board meetings, our board set time aside **to assess** how we are doing and to lay out near- and long-term goals for our organization. From that, for example, came the idea of conducting a community survey.

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- **Bid farewell** to two wonderful volunteers — Patti Zablocky and Amy Gadol — who helped us launch and stay on top of our website and email communications. We **welcomed** new board member, Rich Parlino, and volunteers Michele Sweeney and Jeanine Goodwin, who help us plan the substantive programs that are at the heart of all we do.

What's in Store for 2026?

- More of the same substantive programming, we're happy to report, with plans already in the works for a year packed with our signature informational meetings. Peter Stein of Peeko Oysters will help us kick off the year on January 15, discussing the business of oystering.
- We will mix it up a bit and test out a Saturday morning meeting (we typically meet on Thursday evenings). Our goal always is to be as accessible as possible.
- Further fulfilling our mission to inform and educate, we have plans under way to launch periodic news updates as information warrants.
- When and if the time comes, we're ready to take up the topic of the proposed Colusa Conservation Subdivision, one of the largest developments ever proposed in Cutchogue. We don't know how the project will proceed through Town applications, but we do know the value of community conversation in helping us all stay well-informed.
- We will continue to participate with our neighbors exploring the viability of a YMCA, an initiative with potentially broad significance. Additionally, we have been invited to provide input to the Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library as it considers possible expansion plans.
- Last but certainly not least, we're always on the hunt for more members and more people to help us plan and publicize programs, attend and report on Town Hall meetings, manage member recruitment and engagement, and sing our praises on social media. Let us know if you're interested!

All in all, a busy year awaits ~ and we invite all to join us in the conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn McCall and Barbara Butterworth, co-presidents