Government Committee Minutes Feb. 13, 2019

1. **South Fork Commuter Connection:**

   We agreed to forego a PIM for this spring. Ann will write an article on the topic for the Voter, due Mar. 15.

2. **Affordable housing:**

   We agreed to begin planning for a PIM for June and we brainstormed what that might look like:

   --information: what affordable housing exists today; who is eligible; scope the need in numbers as defined by each town

   --myths: perhaps the panel chair could scope these in an introduction. Examples are that this proposed new housing will overtax the schools and raise property taxes

   --panel: might include a resident of one of the affordable units who could describe the neighbors; what the community is like; housing costs to owners/tenants, etc. Possible speakers: Dianna Weir, Michael Daly

   --groups who seek housing: teachers, firefighters, recent college grads wanting to live in their home towns

   **Note:** Ann, Judy and Glorian are attending Sag Harbor Express forum on Feb 22 and will report back. Also, information sheets from Judy for EHT and Glorian for SHT from last fall are attached

3. **Drivers licenses for undocumented immigrants:**

   Sylvia Baruch brought us up to date on bill S.1747 now in the Transportation Committee in the state legislature. It would ensure that “Standard” drivers licenses be accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status.

   Major arguments in favor are that such a law would promote driver safety and prevent the spread of an underground license market. We also discussed opposition to the proposal.

   Sue, Estelle, and Glorian agreed to discuss the issue of League support with members of the Suffolk County League.

   Currently, Assemblyman Thiele is in favor and Senator LaValle is opposed.
**Lobbying NYS legislators:** we agreed to visit Senator LaValle to discuss issues raised in the Pre-budget Lobbying Packet from the state League, that is, the issues of voting reforms and campaign finance and ethics.

Estelle and Sue will discuss this with Nancy Marr (Brookhaven).

**Next meeting date: Wed., March 13, 10-11:30**