



SEAN M. WALTER, SUPERVISOR (RETIRED)

About Sean M. Walter Biography



Sean M. Walter attended college at Sullivan County Community College where he graduated in 1986 with an Associates of Science Degree. Sean transferred to the State University of New York at Binghamton where he earned a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science in 1988.

After graduation, Sean took a job with the Town of Brookhaven Department of Waste Management where he helped the Town of Brookhaven implement their solid waste recycling program and was responsible for sampling and monitoring the groundwater in and around the Town's landfill.

In 1992, Sean was hired as the Environmental Manager for the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard located in Westhampton Beach. Sean's primary duties were to establish a comprehensive environmental program for all aspects of the Air Guard Base. This included a multi-million dollar environmental cleanup program and the construction of a sewage treatment plant at Gabreski Airport.

In 1996, Sean took a leave of absence from the Air National Guard Base to attend St. John's Law School. He graduated St. John's Law School cum laude in 1999. In 2000 Sean was hired as a Deputy Town Attorney by Town Supervisor Robert F. Kozakiewicz to assist the Town Attorney in all phases of Town litigation.

During his tenure as a Deputy Town Attorney, Sean was appointed to be the Farmland and Open Space Manager for the Town. This was a very successful farmland preservation period during the Town's history. Under Sean's leadership, the Town purchased almost 1,000 acres of farmland and preserved several critical wetland areas.

Sean left the Town Attorney's office in January of 2006 and started a law practice in Wading River. The primary concentration of his practice involves land use as well as real estate, estates and litigation.

From 2010 to 2017, Sean served as Riverhead Town Supervisor. As Supervisor, Sean served as one of the five members of the Town board and presided over all meeting of the Town Board. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Riverhead and was head of the administrative branch of town government. He was also responsible for the general administration of Town

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government, law enforcement and for fiscal administration of the Town. Under his administration, government was streamlined by merging departments with no reduction in services to residents and businesses alike.

During his tenure, Sean was committed to public service and worked with residents and community leaders, fellow Town Board members and elected officials to build a better community.

Sean was focused on keeping Riverhead on a firm financial footing while preserving farmland and open space because he believes that our agricultural heritage gives us a quality of life that is worth preserving.

He believes in regional collaboration with the towns within Suffolk County and is particularly interested in the issues of economic development and job creation, working with State and county government to create an industrial subdivision at the former Grumman facility in Calverton (EPCAL). Having worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation over the past few years, a plan that allows the town to subdivide the property is within reach.

Sean advanced landmark legislation that will make EPCAL more attractive by allowing 90-day approvals for projects that conform to zoning.

As Supervisor, Sean worked hard to bring a resurgence of business activity to Downtown Riverhead with a "one building at a time" approach, bringing new life, businesses, restaurants, shops and family friendly events for our residents to enjoy and to attract visitors and tourists to the area.

Sean was instrumental in getting the Suffolk Theater reopened and led the effort to get the NYS Department of Transportation to move forward with the rehabilitation of the downtown sidewalks. In order to create more foot-traffic, create millennial housing and make downtown Riverhead more vibrant and viable. In excess of 80 million dollars in construction projects are currently underway in downtown Riverhead. This includes a 45-unit apartment building on West Main Street and a second 116- unit apartment building with retail on the first floor on East Main Street.

Under Sean's administration, the Town Board increased staffing and quality-of-life issues are being resolved by targeting zombie homes, transient rentals and overcrowded, unsafe housing.

Recreational activities were expanded to the west end of town so more people have the opportunity to take advantage of the programs being offered.

A Senior Citizen Advisory Council has been formed where the Senior Citizen Guide was created and made available to the public

He served as a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council and was a member of the Suffolk County Pine Barrens Commission.

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Sean resides in Wading River with his wife Cathleen and their sons Gregory, Timothy and Zachary. He is an active member of Riverhead Rotary, the Knights of Columbus and is part of the children's liturgy team at St. John the Baptist RC Church in Wading River.