



MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2021
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis Bock, Trustee Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
Ben Dollinger
Rick Drew
Tim Garneau
Mike Martinsen

Absent: Susan McGraw-Keber

Present: Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Tim O'Rourke
Bruce Horwith
Martha Reichert

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:

Tim O'Rourke addressed the Board to discuss a potential Striped Bass Study in Lake Montauk. O'Rourke is proposing a tagging study of the Striped Bass population in Lake Montauk in conjunction with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, led by Dr. Andy Danylchuk. The goal is to track the Bass with satellite trackers picked up by receivers in Montauk but also along the Eastern seaboard. The purpose of the study would be to get an understanding of the population potentially overwintering in Lake Montauk, their movement/migration patterns and their interactions amongst other fish in the lake. The study would commence January of 2022 and continue for the span of two (2) years. The proposed study came about from fisherman noticing fish behavior in the lake in addition to noticing bass of a smaller size. This study has sparked interest of researchers because Lake Montauk is a unique environment offering essentially a closed ecosystem. There is only one access point for entry or exit which provides the opportunity to investigate what effects this system has on their movement patterns. The study would elicit the support and participation of local schools and has the potential to be expanded to other closed harbor locations within the town. The Board asked what the ultimate goal of the study would be. O'Rourke shared the data on Striped Bass are limited and this study would provide baseline data. The Board asked if

the proposal will be submitted to granting agencies. The total estimated cost is approximately \$250,000 for the two-year span. Jim Grimes made a motion to draft a letter of support for the study. John Aldred seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bruce Horwith addressed the Board on behalf of several different phragmite management applications that he has before the Trustees. Horwith first addressed the project located at 17 Terbell Lane. The applicant is requesting a renewal of the permit. There was a brief discussion around when the project would commence. Horwith confirmed it would not be until at least the Fall. Jim Grimes made a motion to renew the permit. Rick Drew seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Horwith also discussed an application for multiple properties on Cove Hollow Farm Road. The new applications connect to three other existing parcels of land which are already permitted to cut phragmites. The permitted lots are 33 Cove Hollow Farm Rd and two adjacent properties which are owned by family members. The new properties he is seeking permits for are 53 & 59 Cove Hollow Farm Rd, both owned by the Peconic Land Trust and 63 Cove Hollow Farm Rd and 3 Chauncy Close Rd, both owned by Spielberg. Horwith requested permission to use a machine to cut phragmites where there are two dense monocultures of phragmites. There was discussion about the type of machine which will be used. Trustees question why the narrative Horwith provided was missing a timeline for when the initial and subsequent cuts would take place, height of cuts, ways to avoid native vegetation etc... The Trustees are looking for a real management plan versus a plan to cut the invasive species once a year. There was additional discussion around the project and Horwith chose to come back to the Board with a revised narrative.

Martha Richert from Twomey, Latham & Shea, addressed the Board on behalf of the applicant at 38 Two Mile Hollow, LLC – SCTM: 301-10-1-32. The applicant has submitted an application to construct sand fencing. Typically, sand fence applications are done administratively without the requirement of a vote by the Board. However, this particular property is looking to put their sand fence on Trustee owned upland property, not along the toe of the dune and beach grass line. Trustee jurisdiction extends into this property because the Trustee access road comes out of the South West corner of Two Mile Hollow beach. Currently, the secondary dune is getting blown out. Therefore, the proposed fence would be placed further landward compared to the traditional fence at the toe of the primary dune. The beach grass has declined resulting in sand getting blown around. The property has a cabana close to beach which has been confused by the public as a restroom or tiki hut and the public continues to attempt to access the structure. The property needs a buffer between it and the beach access. Richert stated the proposed fencing would be two lines of sand fence with a staggered overlap. The proposed plan would convey to the public there is a fence/barrier but would also the fence to collect/capture sand on the dune. The discussion continued around some historical fencing projects, reviewing aerial images of the property and the application. The primary goal of the project would be to capture sand as the current dune has been affected by wind erosion. The secondary goal is to create a barrier so the public does not continue to mistake the cabana as a restroom or other facility. Aerial imagery also shows a decline in the dune vegetation, mainly beach grass. Beach grass relies on sand to fill in over the grasses to obtain nutrients. When the dune system becomes static and sand is not accumulating, the beach grasses also cannot thrive. Other plants are not growing in this location and elevation is declining. Discussion evolved to include how many rows of fencing should be utilized and if there is a standard distance for how the stakes should be placed. Jim Grimes made a motion to grant the sand fencing permit. Bill Taylor seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Clerk transitioned to the New Business portion of the meeting:

Beaches:

Tim Garneau updated the Board with regard to a constituent complaint of litter being left on the beach overnight/over the weekend on Barcelona Point Beach, also known as The Linda Gronlund Memorial Nature Preserve. Tim Garneau and his wife went to the beach and did a cleanup. They walked up to the mouth of the creek and picked up the garbage in that area as well. Chief Michael Sarlo and Harbor Master Ed Michels had been emailed by the complainant. Both Sarlo and

Michels stated signage cannot be posted in the location because there are several different land owners including the Trustees, New York State and Suffolk County. This led to a discussion about the ongoing historical research of the Northwest Harbor area by Steve Boerner. Rick Drew updated the Board Boerner will be presenting his findings at an upcoming meeting. The complaint went to Assemblyman Fred Theile's office who then contacted the Trustees to inquire about clean ups.

Napeague/Lazy Point:

The Trustees were notified there had been illegal clearing at the end of Crassen Blvd on Napeague Harbor. Bill Taylor visited the site and saw someone had cut a hole through the brush less than 30 feet from the beach access. When the Board was notified initially, Susan McGraw-Keber reached out to Kim Shaw in the Natural Resources Department to make them aware of the issue. There was a short discussion regarding possible reasons why anyone would have cut the *Rosa rigosa* away as enough was left that one would not want to walk barefoot through the clearing. Francis Bock will call Kim Shaw to check in on whether she has had a chance to look into this issue.

The Clerk transitioned to the Old Business portion of the meeting:

John Aldred updated the Board with regard to the kayak racks. Aldred and Susan McGraw-Keber performed inspections of all of the racks and tagged any unpermitted kayaks. Additionally, Aldred noted he has noticed a significant increase in wider kayaks being stored compared to previous years. There also seems to be an issue of crowding on the racks. The racks were permitted at five (5) kayaks per tier. In many spaces, four kayaks take up the entire level. Signs were posted to stack kayak at 5 per rack and stack on the side.

Discussion continued around the standard width of kayaks and that the racks are designed with pieces of split rail fencing. The board concluded that next season only four (4) kayaks should be issued per rack. The discussion transitioned to the mooring field off of the Louse Point launch ramp. There is some crowding in the area of the ramp. There was also a complaint that the grid in Three Mile Harbor was not being followed correctly and moorings were placed incorrectly. John Aldred updated the Board sharing he went out to the harbor to GPS and double check the moorings in question. His result was the same as the complainant. There has been correspondence with the boat owners and the company which set the moorings. The IT department was consulted with regard to the GPS and communication will be shared across the board.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture:

John Aldred provided an update on the Mosquito Larvae dipping survey. The team found a whole range of larvae in various stages to pupae. This is likely due to the recent rainfall the area experiences. Suffolk County Vector Control will spray the harbor and target the hot spots accordingly. The updated information about spraying is posted on the Trustee website.

Education:

The Captain William J. Rysam Scholarship fund fair discussion was tabled until the next meeting as Susan McGraw-Keber was not present.

Georgica & Ponds:

Jim Grimes updated the Board with regard to the aquatic weed harvester in Georgica Pond. The DEC public comment period for open applications ends Thursday July 15, 2021. The discussion between the Friends of Georgica Pond and the DEC has resulted in restrictions which will be placed on the permit including no harvesting in the South end (to establish a control area) and in Goose Creek (due to the presence of an eagle nest). The permit will be a multi-year permit. Last year the permit was received late and the Sago Pond Weed had already died off and settled to the bottom of the pond and began decomposing. The DEC has not provided information as to how long after the comment period the permit will be available. There was discussion around sending a letter requesting swifter action through the permitting process.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Marina - \$120.00 b) Montauk Anglers Club - \$661.31; c) Optimum - \$152.02; d) Seacoast Enterprises - \$196.31. Jim Grimes made a motion to pay the bills. John Aldred seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The June 28, 2021 minutes were prepared and on the table for approval. John Aldred made a motion to accept the minutes of June 28, 2021 meeting. Tim Garneau seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The financial report for the month ending June 2021 was available for review. It was tabled for the following meeting.

The Certificate of Deposit (CD) ending in 5679 is up for renewal. Bill Taylor made a motion to renew the CD. Rick Drew seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Clerk transitioned to the Report of the Clerk:

It is budget season for the Town and the Clerk requested support in reviewing the budget for next year. John Aldred and Bill Taylor will join Francis Bock in reviewing the budget for any comments.

Additional comments:

Jim Grimes added an update on the second new pump out boat which was supposed to be delivered around July 4, 2021. However, it has been delayed as it does not have a motor yet. It is likely the motor will not become available until September. Mike Martinsen commented the new pump out boat in Montauk is very efficient which brought up the issue of the unloading station. There is not an efficient way to gauge the volume of effluent in the holding tank. Jim Grimes suggested looking into a float or mechanism to be able to read the volume from the boat. Chief Harbor Master Ed Michaels is responsible for calling to get the tank pumped out. Without a gauge there is not way to determine how many gallons are present in the tank without using a dipstick. There was additional conversation around the overall pump out operations and Jim Grimes complimented Savannah Vanderwalt for stepping up to help out in Three Mile Harbor when needed.

Rick Drew made a motion to close. Tim Garneau seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 7:58 pm.