



MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2023
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis Bock, Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
David Cataletto

Absent: Ben Dollinger
Tim Garneau
Susan McGraw-Keber
Mike Martinsen

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary

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

The Clerk requested roll call. All Trustees were present except Ben Dollinger, Tim Garneau, Mike Martinsen and Susan McGraw-Keber.

The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:

Marina DeLuca, of Group for the East End, gave a presentation to the Board regarding the conservation work for Ospreys. DeLuca gave an overview of their 2022 data and metrics. Conservation work has resulted in an increase in the Osprey population. The group's efforts have also worked to reduce the number of high risk habitats (i.e. utility poles with little to no canopy cover). These efforts also result in a decrease in available real estate for Ospreys to nest. DeLuca summarized what she sees as areas where the Trustees would be able to support their efforts. These include: 1) helping to distribute information to the public; 2) support in getting poles installed as GEE is no longer able to do so because their insurance no longer allows it; and 3) Southampton Town Trustees have done a pilot program where the public pays them directly and then dedicates the pole to someone. The Southampton Trustees then use that money to have a pole installed.

Molly Graffam of CCE and Ron Paulson, approached the Board to discuss an upcoming project in Georgica Pond regarding Submarine Groundwater Discharge (SGD) and request a mooring in Georgica with an exception allowing the use of a motorized vessel to conduct their research. The project seeks to understand where groundwater is being discharged in the water body and to mitigate the concentration of nitrogen in the water. Paulson summarized the project objective and methods. Essentially, the team would be taking measurements using ground water probes. They will complete Transects across embayment to show where groundwater is focused/discharged using Trident probes. The probes allow the water to

flow through it and measures the salinity and conductivity of the water which helps to determine where the groundwater is mixing with the pond water.

Molly Graffam took over the presentation and emphasized the work will be funded by the Peconic Land Trust. Graffam also emphasized that the work will provide data resulting in actionable steps to for water remediation. Graffam requested permission to moor a boat and use a motorized boat. Bill Taylor alerted the pair that Town Code does not allow any motorized vessels during the summer season. The remainder of the year a 10 Horsepower motor may be used. Aldred noted that an exception to this rule had been made for a SUNY Stony Brook Southampton study in the pond in the recent past. The board asked where they team would like to moor the boat. Graffam confirmed they would like it off of the Peconic Land Trust land. Grimes suggested it would not be great area to moor as once the pond is let, that area will have extremely low water. Grimes offered assistance in contacting the Georgica Association in an effort to request their permission to moor off of their land. Graffam clarified the plan is to do a comprehensive study of the entire pond. John Aldred made a motion for the Group to complete the project and utilize a mooring for a motorized boat. Jim Grimes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Graffam continued the presentation to provide results of their work using permeable reactive barriers in Three Mile Harbor and how this data can be used to inform remediation placement and work.

Robert Vasiluth, founder of Safe Environmental, a for profit company, approached the Board requesting support and approval to sew Eel Grass seeds to live hatchery clams with the Town of East Hampton Shellfish Hatchery. Vasiluth requested the Board's support to do this work along with the hatchery and Cornell Cooperative Extension in Peconic Bay on permitted sites held by the hatchery. Vasiluth developed the process and has scaled it to do on a large-scale basis. Vasiluth has completed five trials since 2018. He worked with Brad Peterson of Stony Brook University in 2020 to seed ½ acre or approximately 4,000 clams with seeds attached. This site is still running today. In 2021, Vasiluth seeded a one acre plot in the Great South Bay with the Nature Conservancy. This site included participation from the Hampton Bays High School students. Seeds and clams were brought to the classroom and students helped glue the seeds to 1,024 clams. Then in 2022, Vasiluth worked with Hampton Bays Science Club to attach 8,000 seeds to 800 clams. These seeded clams were placed in a own plot in the Great South Bay. The seeds for this planting were successfully collected in Shinnecock Bay nine months earlier, indicating it is possible to collect the seeds and hold for use without rotting. Jim Grimes asked Vasiluth for quantitative data to show germination rates, survival rates and density of growth from the seedings. Vasiluth clarified he only has observational data. Steve Schott is the primary investigator from Cornell Cooperative Extension. This year, Vasiluth has a dive team of volunteers to dive around Cedar PT (?) to retrieve eel grass seeds. Vasiluth is proposing working with John Dunne of the East Hampton Shellfish Hatchery. John Aldred questioned if Vasiluth had a site in mind. Vasiluth clarified he would have to work with CCE to Identify which of their (CCE) already permitted shellfish locations to determine which may have idea growing conditions for eel grass. Vasiluth would like to create a 20-acre plot with 10,000 to 20,000 seeded clams with eel grass. David Cataletto and John Aldred both offered thoughts that they would like to offer soft permission/support for the project but would like Vasiluth to work with Barley to come up with a detailed plan. Matt chimed in to let the Board know that Barley Dunne was on the phone lines. Barley offered his support for the project.

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

Francis Bock initiated a conversation with the Board around recent requests from agents to issue multi-year permits for maintenance. Many properties have work which is completed year over year. For example, the properties at 85 & 93 West End Rd complete dune restoration every year after the winter storm season. The Board discussed what a permit such as this would look like. The matter was tabled for further discussion.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture: John Aldred shared that the Board received a questionnaire from New York State Shellfish Restoration Program. Aldred circulated the questionnaire to the Board with his suggested replies and received a response from Mike Martinsen who could not attend the meeting. Aldred provided a summary of Martinsen's comments. NYS is writing a Shellfish Restoration Plan and asking for feedback. Aldred will hold off submitting the comments for another two weeks.

Kayak: David Cataletto brought up the matter of kayaks on the beach at Mile Hill during the summer season. It raised the question whether the board should build a third rack at that location. John Aldred shared that there were 24 spots and 36 entries for the 2022 season. Francis Bock asked that if the Board hires someone to build another rack, the board should have the contractor mend the other racks. The Board discussed having Chris Hamilton do the work as he has in the past. Jim Grimes made a motion to add a rack to Mile Hill and complete other miscellaneous repairs. John Aldred seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Other: John Aldred received an email from Barry Volson, of **Peconic** Estuary Partnership (PEP), requesting him to present an update of the Napeague Inlet Conversation at the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting next Monday. Aldred mentioned there was a meeting with several Trustees, PEP, DEC, Department of State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service back in October. Prior to that meeting was a meeting back in May with Drew Bennett, the Trustees and Fred Thiele. Aldred seems to see a few different paths to achieve the goal of dredging Napeague Harbor. The first is the PEP plan which is to follow up on the conceptual plan developed in 2013 which made recommendations for a hydrodynamic study to be completed to predict the success or lack of success of action taken on the inlets. The estimate at that time for the project was \$250,000. From the last October meeting, Joyce Novak, from PEP, was to reach out to Stony Brook University to inquire about the cost of a study mentioned above. Aldred was to reach out to Will Bowmen who devised the conceptual plan. The hydrodynamic study portion of the conceptual plan was subcontracted out to another group located in Florida. This group is willing to get on a call with the Trustees and other stakeholders. Aldred felt the Board needs to decide where it wants to go with this project. The hydrodynamic study can be an expensive and lengthy study. Jim Grimes asked whether there needs to be a demonstration to all of the agencies to assure the methodology of the project is sound. Aldred clarified the hydrodynamic study would like answer those questions. Grimes pointed out that the Board has discussed using funds from Orsted for projects such as this. Francis Bock mentioned there will need to be multiple partnerships involved. Aldred sees PEP as being one such partner. Bill Taylor mentioned the State will need to be involved as well. The Board decided to hear the pitch for the study, hear what other stakeholders may be interested in the project. The meeting is January 30, 2023 at 10 a.m.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: East Hampton Star - \$60.04; Optimum - \$167.62. * Note: There was a previous bill paid to LTV 1/6/23 for \$200 for filming the Largest Clam Contest. The clerk approved it's payment as it was below the \$500 limit set by the board. Jim Grimes made a motion to pay the bills. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes from December 12, 2022 and January 9, 2023 were available for review. John Aldred made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim Grimes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Financials: The Financials for the month ending December 31, 2022 are available for review. The financials were tabled for further review.

The Clerk transitioned to the Report of the Clerk:

The meeting closed at 8:19 p.m.