



**MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2023**  
**OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY**  
**OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Present: Francis Bock, Clerk  
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk  
John Aldred  
David Cataletto  
Ben Dollinger  
Tim Garneau  
Susan McGraw-Keber (via Zoom)

Absent: Tim Garneau  
Mike Martinsen

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary  
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel  
Ron Paulsen  
Robert Vasiluth

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

**The Clerk requested roll call.** All Trustees were present at roll call except Mike Martinsen and Tim Garneau.

**The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:**

The Trustees were under the impression Peter Mendelman was going to be in attendance to discuss their permit application for an Emergency Bulkhead replacement at 60 Harborview Lane, SCTM #300-57-6-3. However, Mendelman was not present. John Aldred provided a summary to the project request. Mendelman is requesting an expedited decision from all appropriate agencies. The project seeks to remove and replace the existing bulkhead and elevate it one foot to reach the level of the Harbor Marina bulkhead which is attached to it.

In addition to the replacement, Mendelman has been in communication with Ron Paulsen, of Clear Bays and the Town's natural resources department to discuss the installation of a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) behind the bulkhead. Paulsen has been contracted through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) to complete offshore surveys of embayments within East Hampton town for the last five years. As part of the work in Three Mile Harbor, a survey was completed two years ago which looked at surface water and groundwater discharge. The area near Mendelman's marina showed high nitrogen readings. Paulsen's team completed follow-up survey work right outside of the property's bulkhead where they found extremely high groundwater discharge rates with high concentrations of nitrogen. Paulsen's colleague, Molly Graffam, a geochemist with CCE, estimated that 500 lbs

of nitrogen leaching through that section of old bulkhead. The deteriorating bulkhead is allowing groundwater to seep through. Paulson highlighted this bulkhead is the perfect place to place a PRB. The goal is to reduce the nitrogen flow into Three Mile Harbor. Melissa Winslow and Kim Shaw of the Town's Natural Resources Department are supportive of the project. Paulsen suggested this is an opportunistic time to consider putting this reactive barrier in because there is already a permit request in place. Aldred added there may be a time frame issue with this request because Mendelman is looking to begin reconstruction this fall however, Paulson and Graffam will be applying for CPF funding to complete the project. However, that application process does not begin until August. If this project is approved for funding, it will not receive approval until late August or early September. Aldred explained that if everyone is on board, funding is acquired etc... the bulkhead may have to be installed prior to the installation of the PRB. The PRB can be installed after the construction of the bulkhead. The neighbor to the north of this property may also consider doing a similar project but they are not as far along in the permitting process. Aldred shared that he sits on the Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (WQTAC) and will be recommending this project for funding and stated he felt comfortable recusing himself from a Trustee Board vote on this matter given his place on the committee.

Robert Vasiluth, founder of Save Environment, called into the meeting to provide an update on the eel grass project the Trustees had previously offered support for. Vasiluth will have approximately six volunteers to help collect eel grass seeds on the North side of Cedar Point County Park. He is seeking additional volunteers to assist in the project. Several Trustees stated that the Trustees do not have jurisdiction in the waters off of Cedar Point Park and while they support his work, they cannot speak to any permitting which may be required by New York State. Vasiluth has permits in other areas to seed clams with eel grass seed attached and is looking to amend the current permits to include permission to do so in East Hampton waters. Aldred reiterated /clarified that this was what he is seeking and offered a letter of support for Vasiluth to send to the DEC along with the amendment request.

#### **The Clerk transitioned to New Business:**

Susan McGraw-Keber shared that the Trustee office received two calls last week about turtles which had been hit on Mile Hill Road. McGraw-Keber and David Cataletto will be posting Turtle Crossing signs in Northwest Woods area. McGraw-Keber asked the public to be aware and to slow down on the roads as the turtles are on the move.

#### **The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:**

**Duck Blinds:** The matter of Duck Blinds was accidentally left on the agenda from the last meeting but Secretary Alyson Follenius provided an update from the last week. There were two additional blinds left in Accabonac Harbor. Owners were contacted and one has since replied and moved his blind to the upland.

**Lions Head Beach Association Ponds:** John Aldred updated the board with regard to the recent algae levels readings in the ponds. Recent testing shows the blue green algae has increased and is now 24 times the state's acceptable limits. The association had a meeting to discuss this elevation. Aldred provided the association with some suggestions which included road run-off remediation, eliminating the use of fertilizers on neighboring/adjacent properties. Aldred still sees active wildlife on and around the pond and wonders if the sample site just happens to have particularly high concentrations of the blue green algae. Aldred speculated the collections may be taken by wading into a shallow area of the pond. David Cataletto commented a homeowner spoke with him while he was in the area to inspect a phragmite removal project. The homeowner was upset that the pond appeared to be "covered" in algae. Jim Grimes emphasized that the visible algae is not blue-green algae but green algae and if you are observing high concentrations of green algae, there is likely to be high concentrations of blue-green algae. Which, Aldred confirmed with the testing report.

**Mosquito Larvae Survey:** John Aldred and team completed another survey of Accabonac Harbor last week. There were pools without any larvae and other pool with very high counts. There were enough with high counts that the County chose to spray the area. Jim Grimes noted they sprayed the South end of Napeague Harbor last week.

Susan McGraw-Keber noted that New York State has just put in a ban of the use of neonicotinoids. McGraw-keber reminded the board they wrote and submitted a letter to the state in support of the ban last year.

**The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:**

There were no formal committee report updates.

John Aldred asked whether there had been an update with regard to submitting dredging preferences to the county. Francis Bock noted that he believed Kim Shaw was a bit late on that submission but believes it was submitted to the county.

John Aldred noted he had a conversation with Tim Treadwell regarding the shoaling on the outside of Accabonac Harbor channel. Marine Patrol had completed soundings last year and the reports from the fisherman were accurate. Marine Patrol no longer installs a buoy at the end of the channel because the actual channel itself often shifts. Therefore, it takes local knowledge to get in and out of the channel.

**Payment of bills**

The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Star - \$63.50 (help wanted pump out boat); East Hampton Marina - \$259.64 (Oil Change), \$160.50 (Fuel) & \$165.90 (Fuel); Optimum - \$146.97; Seacoast Marina - \$67.29. Jim Grimes made a motion to pay the bills. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting of June 26, 2023 are available for review. John Aldred noted he read the minutes and provided any edits. Susan McGraw-Keber did the same. John Aldred made a motion to approve the minutes of June 26, 2023. Susan McGraw-Keber seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Jim Grimes made a motion to close the meeting. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**The meeting closed at 7:11p.m.**