



**MEETING MINUTES OF June 26, 2023  
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY  
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

**Held at the Old Town House in East Hampton Village in celebration of the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Town of East Hampton**

Present: Francis Bock, Clerk  
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk  
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk  
John Aldred  
David Cataletto  
Tim Garneau  
Susan McGraw-Keber

Absent: Ben Dollinger  
Mike Martinsen

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary  
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary  
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel  
Vincent & Joan Priori  
George Eldi

The meeting was held at the Old Town House in East Hampton Village by request of the East Hampton Historical Society in celebration of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of East Hampton.

**The Clerk opened the meeting with a welcome to the Old Town House and the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.**

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

### **Trustee History**

David Cataletto shared a bit of Trustee History and about the building the meeting was taking place in. Cataletto read excerpts from the Trustee journals containing minutes from past meetings. Cataletto provided readings from several decades in sequential order to highlight some of the work the Trustees have done through the years. Cataletto highlighted that even the earliest Trustee board had subcommittees to handle matters and they

required applications for permits. The readings covered some legal matters regarding lawsuits and spoke of prosecuting individuals for carting seaweed. The passages from the early 1900's spoke of spreading seed clams with what seemed to be the beginning of Trustee work to preserve the waterways and shellfish. The readings from the 1950's mentioned Lazy Point leases. Later years spoke of the Trustees purchasing boats for the for Bay Constable to use.

**The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:** There was no one present for offering general public comment. Public comment was offered later in the discussion on the Napeague Hydrodynamic Study.

**The Clerk transitioned to New Business:** There was no new business to discuss.

**The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:**

The Board held a brief discussion about scheduling a date for an executive session pertaining to docks. The conversation highlighted the fact that the first regular meeting in September of 2023 was September 11<sup>th</sup>. The board decided to move the regular meeting to September 8, 2023 at the regularly scheduled time. The board will meet ahead of the regular meeting to go into executive session at 5:30 p.m. Susan McGraw-Keber made a motion to reschedule the regular meeting of September 11, 2023 to September 8, 2023 and to schedule an executive session at 5:30 p.m. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:**

John Aldred updated board on the Napeague Hydrodynamic Study meeting held on Tuesday, June 20th in partnership with Peconic Estuary Partnership (PEP). Barry Volsen, the Natural Resources Manager of PEP, will be putting together a synopsis of meeting to distribute. The meeting discussed the next steps which need to be taken to get a feasibility study in progress. The meeting was heavily focused on erosion versus water quality issues. There was a coastal protection group present which gave a presentation about programs they have used for projects in North Carolina and showed modeling to see how either dredging an inlet or creating a new inlet would impact the harbor. The stakeholder meeting also discussed that permitting would require a Type 1 SEQR action, require full environmental impact statement and would include many different agencies. There was also a discussion about what the long-term maintenance of the project would look like. Aldred also summarized that the entire project would entail four steps. Aldred shared he was looking for potential costs for each step but that you cannot estimate costs without first, beginning. In 2013, the first step, a hydrodynamic feasibility study was estimated to cost \$250,000. That cost today was generally estimated to range from \$300,000 to \$600,000, depending on the questions it would be asked to answer. The four steps include hydrodynamic feasibility, engineering and permitting, construction followed by maintenance. Aldred stressed this feasibility study only gives the information which would be needed to determine whether to move forward with the project. The Trustees then had a lengthy discussion among the Board members which included questions about who would manage post construction maintenance, whether the Board wanted to partner with other agencies, which channel to open and/or close/keep closed etc... Joan Priori, Vincent Priori and George Eldi, Sr., residents of the Napeague area, were present to offer comment during this part of the meeting. There was some conversation around what questions the feasibility study would answer and what the Trustees understood from the PEP meeting. There was continued back and forth discussion which touched upon numerous aspects of the project. Bill Taylor emphasized that the health of the harbor was highlighted often throughout the meeting. George Eldi spoke about his personal experience on the harbor as a child and stressed the value of the knowledge residents have regarding what they have witnessed firsthand in the harbor over time. Jim Grimes acknowledged this and agreed it should be considered. Grimes added he would like to see proposals on a feasibility study as starting point. Aldred stressed the Board needs to determine what question they want answered as the feasibility study will need to be devised around this. There was more conversation around the benefits of opening the former east

channel and closing the west channel and how different agencies have differing perspectives on this. Some stakeholders feel closing the current west channel and opening the former east channel will have the best impact on the overall health of the harbor and will help restore it to what it was previously. Other agencies feel that it is best to do nothing because they have learned from similar projects that water exchange only will not bring back the once thriving fisheries and rookeries. The conversation spanned approximately an hour before the clerk interrupted and mentioned there were other items on the agenda to discuss. John Aldred asked the board member to take time to review the synopsis of the meeting once it is distributed by Volsen and the board will take next steps from there.

### **Georgica Ponds:**

Jim Grimes updated the board with regard to 186 Lily Pond Lane. Bruce Horwith came to last meeting to discuss the project. The materials were distributed to the board members for review after the last meeting. Grimes recommended the board approve the application and mentioned that neighboring properties were managing their cuttings very well and if this applicant does it similarly it would be a very good project. Grimes also clarified that it was strictly a cutting project. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the application for phragmite management at 186 Lily Pond Lane. Susan McGraw-Keber seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

David Cataletto briefly mentioned that he met with Bruce Horwith regarding two phragmite management projects. Jim Grimes added that these properties were part of the Trustees' phragmite management program and that they do have to in front of the entire board. These renewals are handled administratively.

### **Beaches:**

Jim Grimes shared that a village lifeguard notified Billy Hajek, the East Hampton Village, who notified the Trustee office that there had been construction of a sand fence occurring at 9 West Dune Lane. The contractor on the project was notified by Hajek that the work required a Trustee permit. Grimes shared that the Trustees are in favor of sand fencing but that the contractor was ignorant to the need for a permit. The contractor subsequently submitted a permit application. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the construction of a sand fence in front of 9 West Dune Lane. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Duck Blinds:**

David Cataletto provided an update on the duck blinds in Northwest Creek. Of the seven blinds he found during the first inspection, only three remained in the creek during his most recent inspection. Cataletto will let Alyson Follenius, Trustee secretary, know which blinds remain installed. Grimes expressed the board would like to know so that those permittees do not get blind permits upcoming season.

### **Other:**

Susan McGraw-Keber read aloud the thank you note received from Skye Tanzmann for the Trustee Scholarship award.

### **Administrative:**

**Payment of bills:** The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Star -\$31.75 and East Hampton Marina - \$140.71. Jim Grimes made a motion to pay the bills. Susan McGraw-Keber seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the meetings of May 8, 2023, May 22, 2023, June 12, 2023 and the Special Meeting pertaining to docks on June 12, 2023 were available for review. Susan McGraw-Keber reviewed all of the completed minutes and sent suggestions Alyson Follenius. John Aldred made a motion to accept the minutes. Susan McGraw-Keber seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Other:**

Chris Carillio updated the board regarding the efforts to update the language of the town code pertaining to poaching. The matter has had traction in both the East Hampton Star and the New York Post. The update language will expand Marine Patrols authority in their efforts to limit poaching.

John Aldred asked if the board wants to send a memo to Marine Patrol to request a sweep of the harbors to inspect moorings for permits and to let the board know if there are boats moored without a permit. The Board would request they schedule a survey over the course of weeks to give picture to see if anything is not permitted. The board agreed a memo should be sent from the clerk to Marine Patrol to request a sweep of the harbors.

Susan McGraw-Keber took a moment to publicly remind kayak permittees to place their kayaks such that their stickers are on the end of the boat facing the water.

The clerk thanked the East Hampton Historical Society for the invitation to host a meeting in the Old Town House as the original Trustees had done in the past. Susan McGraw-Keber thanked LTV for their part in making it happen.

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

**The meeting closed 6:46 pm.**