



**MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2023**  
**OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY**  
**OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

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

Absent: Mike Martinsen

Present: Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary  
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel  
Susan Knobel – 100 Shore Rd  
James L. Walker – 235 Kings Point Rd & 104 Georgica Close Rd  
Mary Ann Eddy – Sag Harbor Water Quality Initiative  
Valerie Palmeri – LHBA – Swan Pond  
David Rhoades – TF Engineering  
Frank Piccininni – Spadefoot  
Vinny Sama – President of the Lion Head Board  
Eileen Mullen – VP of the Lion Head Board  
Molly Graffam – Cornell Cooperative

**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.

**The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:**

- Susan Knobel, owner of 100 Shore Rd, SCTM# 300-85-1-27.1, told the Trustees that she has been coming before the Board for the last 20 years, with annual requests to renew her burlap sandbag permit to protect her home from storm erosion. She said before the West Inlet was opened, she had 150 feet of beach in front of her Leasehold at Lazy Point. Since the County opened the west inlet in front of her home, she has had severe erosion and may have lost her home without the sandbags. A motion was

made by Jim Grimes to approve Susan Knobel's application. The motion was seconded by Susan McGraw-Keber and unanimously approved.

- James L. Walker from Inter-Science approached the Board on behalf of Ginny Schmidt, owner of 235 Kings Point Rd – SCTM# 300-24-1-32- with an application for Bluff Restoration. Jim Walker said that he met with Brian Frank at the property, and Brian Frank recommended the project that Jim Walker has presented to the Trustees. The homeowner would like to install 3 coir logs, which will be secured by stakes. The homeowner will then place sand over the coir logs and revegetate the area where the sand was placed. Jim Grimes suggested that shoreline fencing might also be helpful to this Bluff Restoration project. David Cataletto said he met at the property with Jim Walker and that he believes the work really needs to be done to protect this property. A motion was made by Susan McGraw-Keber to approve this application. The motion was seconded by David Cataletto and unanimously approved.
- James L. Walker from Inter-Science on behalf of CG85, LLC, owner of 104 Georgica Close Road, - SCTM# 301-7-4-14.2- Jim Walker said that 12 years ago under the previous owner, this property held a phragmite management permit, but that since that time the phragmites have returned in full force. The new owner began doing work without a Village or DEC permit and was issued a stop work order. The owners have now obtained the appropriate permits from the Village of East Hampton and the DEC. Ben Dollinger said that he and David Cataletto inspected the property and that the work needs to be done. A motion was made by David Cataletto to approve this application for Phragmite Management. The motion was seconded by Ben Dollinger and unanimously approved. Jim Grimes recused himself from the vote because he is the landscape contractor on this project.
- Sag Harbor Water Quality Initiative – Mary Ann Eddy presented the Board with a Power Point presentation showing the results of the 2022 Water Quality testing in Sag Harbor. Her presentation highlighted the problem of high bacteria at swimming beaches and the problem of having a waste treatment facility close to the beach in the middle of Sag Harbor. Mary Ann said that Sag Harbor is trying to find an alternative location for the waste treatment plant. She said that the research and reports from Dr Gobler are helping Sag Harbor to identify problem areas and come up with plans to remediate the situation. A motion was made by Jim Grimes to contribute \$2500 to the 2023 SHWQI. The motion was seconded by Susan McGraw-Keber and unanimously approved. Mary Ann Eddy said she plans to come back to the Trustees after we begin receiving payments from South Fork Wind Farm. She is hoping the Trustees will be willing at that point to assist in relocating the wastewater treatment plant in Sag Harbor.
- Valerie Palmieri, from the Lions Head Beach Association, addressed the Board regarding the LHBA's – Environmental Remediation Plan for Swan Pond. Valerie presented an informative power point to the Trustee Board. The first speaker was Frank Piccininni from Spadefoot Design and Construction. Frank said he is a biologist and an Attorney. Frank began his presentation by saying that the Stormwater infrastructure in LHBA is 60 years old and was undersized even back then. If a 100-year storm hits LHBA with the existing old infrastructure, it will create a very bad situation. Swan Pond is acting as a catch basin, with many of the Storm drains in the area discharging into Swan Pond. The Phragmite growing in Swan Pond are creating islands. The Lion Head Beach Association would like to cut the phragmites. They would then leave the stems and roots and plant trees in the middle of the phragmite beds. The planting of the trees will provide much benefit to local wildlife as well as pull nitrogen out of the water year-round. Jim Grimes said he thought we didn't own Swan Pond. John Aldred told the

Trustees, that in a map published in 1857 the map showed Swan Pond and Pond Lane Pond were an arm off Hog Creek, which the Trustees do own. There was some confusion among the Trustees about whether the LHBA was asking the Trustees to contribute money towards the remediation of Swan Pond. The Trustees are concerned that there is no public access to the Ponds, so Francis felt that public money shouldn't be used for enhancing private property. The upland bioswales will be built within the Town right of way. The LHBA is proposing a major restoration of the Trustee Pond. The LHBA is also proposing bioswales on both the public and private property surrounding the ponds. John Aldred said that the Trustees will need to give permission for the work to be done in Swan Pond, before it can fully apply for WQTAC funding. David Cataletto asked if dredging the Pond might help clear up the blue green algae. Frank Piccinini said the water table is too low for dredging and that this is a question of keeping contaminants out of the pond, not a need to open the Pond up to the bay for flushing. Valerie said this is a four-pronged, ground water remediation siting strategy to see why there is so much nitrogen in the pond and to help reverse the situation. Valerie thanked the Trustees again for paying for the water quality testing done by Dr. Gobler. She said the testing results really got the attention of the homeowner's in LHBA. John Aldred asked if David Rhodes could talk to the Trustees about the AI systems around the ponds. Valerie said that there are 50 septic systems draining into Swan Pond and that 15 of the 50 homeowners are committed to upgrading to low nitrogen septic systems. They also plan to educate the homeowners about restricting their use of fertilizers. Molly Graham said she is using some of the techniques used in Hog Creek to study the situation. The Cornell Cooperative Extension has installed porewater stations and groundwater seepage stations to monitor the Ponds. Molly said they would also like to install some water level monitoring equipment. John Aldred asked what plantings or revegetation LHBA plans to do after cutting the phragmites. Frank Piccinni said they are planning to primarily plant large trees such as Black Willows, which are an early successional welling species that will take well to the area. They also plan to plant Silver Maples and Groundsel Bush. Frank said planting the Black Willows will encourage the growth of Red Maples, Summer sweet and Plethora. Frank said that if you plant small wetland species, the phragmites will quickly overwhelm them. Valerie thanked the Trustees for their attention, and requested a letter of support from the Trustees to be passed along to the WQTAC committee. David Rhoades asked if the work that Frank was doing would need a Trustee permit as well. The answer was yes for the phragmite cutting, buffer restoration and the monitoring devices to be place in the Pond.

### **III. New Business**

- Susan McGraw-Keber said she and her co-committee members, David Cataletto and Ben Dollinger have been working hard, to make this the best Largest Clam Contest yet. Susan is purchasing and personally donating specially made Trustee Chowder Mugs for this year's event. The mugs will be available for purchase at \$12 each and you will be able to fill them with free Clam Chowder. 100% of the money raised will go directly into the East Hampton Town Trustees Scholarship Fund. The Largest Clam Contest will be held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon to 3 pm. The Lynn Blue Band will be playing at the event again this year. The Trustees will also have Jenn Woodason Face Painting, Clam Shell painting, Mrs. Roman's Bonac Chowder, Clam Pies, and a wonderful BBQ from Trustee Tim Garneau which was a great success last year. The Trustees have great prize baskets for the winners of the Clam Contests and Clam Chowder Contests. The public will be able to pick up instruction for entering the contests soon. The event will be held this year at the Amagansett Life Saving Station on Atlantic Avenue. The Trustees will have Judges for the Clam Chowder Contest. David Cataletto thanked Susan McGraw-Keber for being the Committee's fearless leader and organizing everything. Ben Dollinger asked if anyone had reached out to the High School yet for volunteers. Susan said that

this year the Trustees will also have Wanted Largest Clam T-Shirts for sale, with the large “Wanted” Clam on the back. Susan said we will also have Mr. Softee at the event again this year. The posters are going up at the local shops. Susan shared the poster online for everyone to see. David Cataletto said that the museum is also promoting the event on their social media platforms. Ben and Susan asked all the Trustees to try to get 3 gifts each for the prize baskets. Susan said that the Trustees should remember to support the local businesses if they are buying prizes and reminded everyone that this is the Trustees one large annual event.

#### IV. Old Business

- Regarding the Mosquito Larvae counts on the full moon two weeks ago, John Aldred reported that there was a very high tide and lots of mosquitos. The County did treat the harbor that week. The new moon will be taking place this Wednesday. The new moon tide is not supposed to be very high, and the County is not planning to spray in Accabonac Harbor this week. The next full moon will be August 29<sup>th</sup>, and the County will want to know the mosquito counts that week, because it will be Labor Day weekend. The County wants to make sure they treat the harbor if needed, but they also don’t want to spray unnecessarily if it isn’t needed.

#### V. Committee Reports

##### Roads:

- The Trustees received correspondence from Richard Whalen, Esq, who is representing a group of homeowners who take access off a dirt Trustee Road. The correspondence reads as follows - Crooked Highway Road Improvements – “Petition from homeowners off a portion of Crooked Highway to the Town Board requesting the Town authorize and approve the construction and paving of said open portion of Crooked Highway” (excerpt of complete request). Jim Grimes suggested the Trustees have a sit down with Steven Lynch and Rick Whalen. The viability of the proposal and whether the Town will agree to accept the road into the Town Highway system is still unknown. This matter will be further discussed in Committee for the moment. Chris Carillo said he believes these homeowners are ready to begin the road improvements soon, before knowing if the Town will accept the improvements into the road system or not. The homeowners will need Trustee approval to improve the road in the manner they want to.

#### VI. Administrative

**A motion was made by Jim Grimes, seconded by Susan McGraw-Keber and unanimously approved to pay the following bills:** a) East Hampton Marina - \$493.78 (Fuel); b) Seacoast Enterprises - \$27.49 (supplies); c) Montauk Anglers Club - \$1,364.01 (Servicing of boat); d) Montauk Marine Basin - \$680.76 (Fuel); e) Optimum - \$150.24; f) Van Dyke & Hand CPA - \$720.00 (Accountant).

**The financials for the months of** March, April, May, June, and July 2023 were tabled until the following meeting. Ben Dollinger remarked that since the Trustees raised some of their fees last January, the Trustees income from Kayaks, Moorings and Docks has increased by \$35,000. He also pointed out that last year the Trustees received a one-time good faith payment from South Fork Wind Farm, for \$250,000. That income has made it look like year over year our income is lower this year, but it really is just because of a one-time payment. John Aldred said that it appeared we hadn’t paid to open the Georgica Gut in the Spring this year. Jim Grimes said we did open the gut last spring and pay the contractor. The office staff will review to see if the payment for the opening of the Georgica Gut was recorded incorrectly.

#### VII. Report of the Clerk

Jim Grimes let the Board know that Michael Payne, a member of the Ninevah Community and a strong supporter of the Little Northwest Creek dredging project, has passed away and that there would be a memorial service held for him on Saturday August 19, 2023. Jim said that Michael Payne was instrumental and the driving force behind the dredging of Little Northwest Creek. Jim invited the Trustees to the service.

In the Report of the Clerk, Francis Bock said that a new free local newspaper, The Amagansett Star-Review, has contacted the Town Trustees. Susan McGraw-Keber said that the owner of the new paper has offered to put our Largest Clam Contest Poster in the September issue of his newspaper for free. The owner also spoke to Susan regarding doing an article on Turtles and other wildlife. Susan said she is helping him connect with the Turtle Rescue of the Hampton

Jim Grimes made a motion to close the meeting at 7:11pm. The motion was seconded by Susan McGraw-Keber and was unanimously approved.

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