



MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2023
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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

Absent: Susan McGraw-Keber
Mike Martinsen

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel
Bob Tyman, South Fork Sea Farmers
Nicholas Cooper, South Fork Sea Farmers Intern
Dr. Christopher Gobler, Stony Brook University

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 for Susan McGraw-Keber and Mike Martinsen.

The Clerk transitioned to Public Comment:

Dr. Christopher Gobler joined the meeting to address the *Vibrio vulnificus* bacterium. Gobler stressed he is a microbiologist and not a medical doctor. *Vibrio vulnificus* has recently been in the press because two people from Connecticut and one person from Suffolk County had passed away due to infection with the bacterium. Exposure can occur through open wounds or concentrated in shellfish through human consumption. Gobler shared information about other infections in Florida and other southern states. Gobler believed the organism found a foothold in local waters in July due to the heat waves and torrential downpours. The heavy rainfall effects the salinity of the water which may have offered the bacteria the opportunity to proliferate. Gobler reiterated that he is NOT a medical doctor and cannot provide medical advice other than to reiterate what the State Department of

Health has put out. These include being aware if one is immune compromised, they should exercise caution; in general protect and cover open wounds before entering the water; avoid swimming after heavy rainfall and overall to use common sense. Gobler shared that his lab is currently in the process of developing an assay to test for this specific bacterium, but it is not currently ready or available. He is hopeful it will be later this year.

Nicholas Cooper and Bob Tyman came before the board to request site relocations for the oyster gardens approved in Trustee permits A-2-22 and A-3-22. Cooper gave a brief presentation to share the new locations the team identified. Cooper discussed the team has been in conversations with the DEC for a year regarding the locations and ultimately decided changing the site locations may expedite DEC approval. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the request to relocate both oyster gardens. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

David Cataletto updated the board with regard to the planning of the Largest Clam Contest. The contest will be held on September 24, 2023 from 12-3 pm. The judges and activations have been secured. The participating the seafood shops for drop offs will be Amagansett Seafood Shop and The Seafood Shoppe in Wainscott. The museum will be open.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

There were no committee reports.

The clerk transition to Administrative:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Marina - \$415.65 (fuel); Intact Insurance - \$10,773 (Pump Out Boat Insurance – both boats). David Cataletto made a motion to pay the bills. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of July 24, 2023 are available for review. John Aldred reviewed the minutes and made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Grimes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Financials: The financials for the months of March, April, May, June and July 2023 are available. David Cataletto reviewed the financials and made a motion to accept the financials. Jim Grimes seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

The NYCLASS banking statement dated July 31, 2023

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

The meeting closed at 7:06 p.m.