



MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis J. Bock, Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
David Cataletto
Patrice Dalton
Ben Dollinger
Tim Garneau
Celia Josephson

Absent:

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Chris Carillo, Trustee General Counsel (Via Zoom)

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.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:

East Hampton High School Research Student, Finn O'Rourke addressed the Trustees requesting support for the purchase of Lotek Pop-Off satellite tags for his high school research project studying sharks in local waters. O'Rourke passed provided a packet to each board member. O'Rourke is working with marine biologist, Gregory Metzger and East Hampton High School Research Science teacher, Dr. Stephanie Forsberg. O'Rourke is seeking funding to purchase a fourth tag. The plan is to tag at least three White Sharks. O'Rourke explained the tagging process and explained how the tags ping the satellite when the shark surfaces. Jim Grimes made a motion to donate \$2,000.00 to O'Rourke's project. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion. There were additional questions from the board. The motion was passed and approved. Grimes asked O'Rourke to come back to the board with the results.

Richard Seery, of Seery Systems, Inc, introduced himself to the board. Seery Systems is a company which digitizes company and governmental records. Seery has digitized the records of several Town of East Hampton departments. Seery explained the benefits of digitizing records. As the physical files are the only files on record,

digitizing the records provides a backup copy. Seery systems will index the records to allow them to be searched in the digital archive. There were questions from board members concerning the safety of removing records from the office and how Seery Systems is insured. There were additional questions regarding whether all of the records would be removed at one time and what the turnaround time to complete the digitizing of the records would be. Seery provided further details of the preparation process, scanning of the documents and the indexing into a digital archive. Celia Josephson questioned how the privacy of personal information is maintained. Seery confirmed the files are not shared outside of the employees of the company. The board asked for an updated proposal to include costs for re-preparation of the documents and storage fees. The board discussed the work the board will have to do on the files to prepare each file for the process and the enormous task it will be. The board agreed that each member will have stopped into the office to look through several files to get an understanding of how this could work. The board will have another conversation at the next meeting.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Assignments:

The clerk put out committee assignments and asked if anyone had any comments or concerns. Celia Josephson asked to be put on the education committee and the clerk granted the request.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

The Board shifted to the matter of the Gerard Drive Culvert and dredging. Bill Taylor mentioned that when Jim Walker was recently in front of the board, he shared he was successful in getting approval from the DEC to shift the dates of their dredging project. Taylor suggested the Trustees look to get the same approval to shift the date of the dredging for the Gerard Drive culvert. The board discussed the past permit modifications the board has requested of the DEC. The board agreed to reach out to Drew Bennett.

John Aldred shared an announcement that NY SEA Grant, Peconic Estuary Shoreline Adaptation Initiative will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Riverhead library. NY SEA Grant and Peconic Estuary Partnership are working together to develop recommendations for the towns, villages and Trustees for permitting with regard to harden shoreline structures. Their goal seems to be to create a model for recommended permitting categories which the towns would undertake. Aldred and Patrice Dalton planned to attend.

The board received a ZBA hearing notice for Jan. 23, 2024 regarding 257 Gerard Drive. The applicant is proposing to tear down the existing structure and rebuild a new structure. John Aldred brought the matter to the board because the Trustees are neighboring land owners. Aldred questioned whether the board felt it should create a practice of responding to the notice. Jim Grimes shared that in his experience the board should comment if there was concern the board should respond. Grimes did not want to make a habit of requesting the record be left open and then not have a comment. John Aldred clarified that his question was whether the board should be interacting with the notices even if just to say that the Trustees have no comment so that the Trustees do not get “forgotten about.” Francis Bock agreed with Aldred that the Trustees should maintain the informational chain but he had concerns that emotions could get in the way among individuals before the full board has the opportunity to discuss. The board spoke of drafting a general response to the ZBA which essentially states the Trustees, as stewards of the waterways and beaches remind and/or request the ZBA Board keep in mind the environmental sensitivity and health of the adjacent lands as it deliberates on applications. The board agreed to respond to this notice with a letter to the ZBA.

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:

The amended annual resolution 2024-28 was provided. Attorney Chris Carillo offered an edit in the “now therefore be it resolved paragraph” which should read, “shall hereby remain” instead of “is hereby.” Francis Bock

read the amended resolution. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the resolution. John Aldred seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

David Cataletto readdressed the matter of the truck access on the harbor side at the end of Gerard Drive. Cataletto brought the matter to the Nature Preserve Committee (NPC) to get their opinion. Cataletto shared the NPC felt nothing should be changed and the access should not be blocked. The board generally felt there was no action for the Trustees to take.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture:

John Aldred addressed the matter of a request for a permit from Dr. Christopher Gobler to install Kelp lines for the purposes of research between Barcelona Point and Little Northwest Creek. This will be part of a larger project as part of the Peconic East Blue Carbon Shoreline Protection Project. Aldred provided a brief summary of the project. Aldred had requested a permit from Golber as the Trustees have vested interest in the area. John Aldred made a motion to approve the application. Jim Grimes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

John Aldred updated the board with regard the changes in the DEC shellfish harvest area designation. Aldred shared he spoke with the DEC to come up with a solution. The Trustees will provide a notice to any baymen(women) who requests shellfish tags that provides the updated designations and a sample of how to mark the shellfish tag with the new designation.

John Aldred received an inquiry from South Fork Sea Farmers for a potential new oyster reef site in Three Mile Harbor. Aldred met with Barley (John) Dunne and Bob Tymann at the site near Brigg's marina. Aldred shared an aerial image of the proposed site. The board was favorable to reviewing an application for a reef at this site. One neighboring business was also in favor of the project and SFSF will be reaching out to the other one for support. Aldred will reach out to SFSF and suggest they put in an application for a new oyster reef.

John Aldred also announced the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program (SCALP) board meeting will be meeting to consider renewal of leases. One of the leases up for renewal is held by Multi-Aquaculture Systems off of the Promised Land. They have held this permit a significant period of time.

Education:

The Trustees received a \$150 donation to the Trustee scholarship fund from John and Audrey Furfaro. A thank you letter was sent to them.

Harbor Management:

John Aldred updated the board regarding the 2023 Transient Mooring report received from Seacoast Marine. Aldred provided a summary of the data provided.

Pump Out Boat:

The clerk announced that the grant money was received from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation for operations and maintenance of the pump out boats. Secretary Arlene Tesar made a correction that the grant was approved and the funds are in transit.

The clerk transitioned to Administrative:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: a) Optimum - \$150.24; b) East Hampton Star – \$31.24 Bill Taylor made a motion to pay the bills. Tim Garneau seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of Dec.11, 2023 were available for review. John Aldred read the minutes and they were satisfactory. John Aldred made a motion to approve the minutes. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Additionally, the minutes from January 8, 2024 were available for review. John Aldred made a motion to approve the minutes of Jan. 8, 2024. Celia Josephson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Financials: The financials for the month ending Nov. 30, 2023 were available for review. Patrice Dalton make a motion to accept the financials. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The clerk transitioned to the Report of the clerk:

The Trustees were approached by Peter Mendelman, of Harbor Marina, because they received a visit from code enforcement that they need to close out an old Trustee permit from 2014. Mendelman requested the Trustees notify code enforcement that the permit has been closed out. The board briefly discussed the matter and felt that since the board has recently granted the marina a 10-year maintenance permit the board was comfortable closing out the previous permit.

John Aldred brought up the matter of the unpermitted kayaks on beaches or kayaks left on the racks past the deadline. Aldred updated the board that Marine Patrol recently impounded two kayaks from Mile Hill Road. The owners were issued a summons by marine patrol. The board discussed how to manage the matter and whether those who received the summons would be eligible to enter the lottery for the coming season. The board discussed creating a policy whereas anyone permit holder who receives a summons and/or impound of their kayak is not eligible to participate in the following season's lottery and storage program. John Aldred made a motion to establish a policy that if kayak permit holders are cited by Marine Patrol for an infraction, they lose the privilege of applying for a permit the following season. David Cataletto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

The meeting closed at 7:59 p.m.