



MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 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 (via Zoom)
Celia Josephson

Absent: Chris Carillo, Trustee General Counsel

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Jean Kane, Sag Harbor Trustee
Bob Bori, Sag Harbor - Harbor Master
John Parker, Sag Harbor – Vice Chair Harbor Committee
Bert Waife, Marine Contractor
Peter Topping, Peconic Bay Keeper
Robert Vasiluth, SAVE Environment
Billy Mack, First Coastal
Brian Schlitt, Lazy Point Resident

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 Jim Grimes. Tim Garneau was present via Zoom. Attorney Chris Carillo was not present. Jim Grimes arrived at 6:33 pm.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:

Jean Kane, Sag Harbor Trustee and Bob Bori, Harbor Master for Sag Harbor came before the board to discuss and share some updates regarding the management of the Sag Harbor outer mooring area. Bob shared that Sag Harbor has just established a new mooring grid using GPS coordinates to plot the locations. There were concerns with people anchoring without permission Bori. Sag Harbor provided the Trustees with an updated management

plan and an updated grid for the mooring field after meeting with Jim Grimes and John Aldred. The draft of the grid has since been edited from the one which was provided to the Trustees. In 2023, Sag Harbor had issued approximately 60 mooring permits for the outer management area. For 2024, there will be approximately 85 mooring spots available for permitting. John Aldred questioned whether there were moorings dedicated specifically for East Hampton and Sag Harbor residents. Jim Grimes questioned what the fee for 2024 will be. Bob confirmed it will be a flat fee of \$350 which essentially will cover administrative costs, labor for daily inspections and trash removal. John Parker, Vice Chair of the Sag Harbor-Harbor Committee, also addressed the board to share his opinions on the updated grid. Parker felt the large yachts should be paying a larger fee as their impact is greater on the environment. He would like to see a smaller number of boats. Ben Dollinger questioned whether there would be a size limit for the length of boats which will be able moor in the grid. Jim Grimes mentioned he is generally in favor of this update. However, in light of some new information discussed during the meeting, such as the eel grass beds which are proximate to the grid, Grimes acknowledged he had hoped Sag Harbor would have come to the (East Hampton) Trustees with the updated draft of the plan and with a consensus among their board. Grimes reiterated he is reluctant to consider supporting this without a more complete draft and questioned how critical it was for their board to vote the following evening at their meeting. Bori confirmed that they (Sag Harbor Board) needed to get the mooring applications out as they have already received requests and had not anticipated the process taking as long and did not know there was opposition to the plan among their board. John Aldred questioned Kane, Bori and Parker whether adding language to their resolution which provided preference of mooring positions to residents was a possibility. The Sag Harbor Village Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. On Tuesday and they do not anticipate canceling due to weather. Sag Harbor Trustees will forward any updates to the East Hampton Trustees once they are outlined. John Aldred made a motion to support the plan of Sag Harbor contingent upon language being added to the resolution relative to favoring residents' positions of moorings in the field. Jim Grimes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Peter Topping, the Executive Director and bay keeper of Peconic Baykeeper, addressed the board in support of Robert Vasiluth's eel grass seeding project. Topping summarized the areas where Eel Grass is present in enbayments within East Hampton Town and wished to introduce himself as sponsor of the project. Robert Vasiluth came before the board to provide an update of the project activities since last June. Vasiluth worked with John "Barley" Dunne of the TOEH Hatchery who provided the seed clams. Vasiluth worked with the East Hampton High School's environmental club and their advisor, Aubrey Peterson. The students assisted Vasiluth by gluing eel grass seeds to 1,907 juvenile clams. After the seeds were adhered to the clams, they were brought back to the hatchery to keep the seeds wet and allow the glue to set. Vasiluth and Barley Dunne then used a dispersing machine, devised by Vasiluth, to place the clams in Napeague Harbor. Vasiluth requested approval from the Board to continue the project. Jim Grimes questioned whether Vasiluth had the locations already determined for phase two of the project. John Aldred read a letter into record written by John "Barley" Dunne (see attached). Aldred asked whether Vasiluth had considered installing a control plot to determine whether predation would be a factor in the success of the eel grass growth. Vasiluth responded that predation is one of seven factors which contribute challenges to eel grass growth and provided summaries of some of the other factors. Peter Topping mentioned the group would be amenable to installing some mesh over a certain plot to protect against predation as a control measure. David Cataletto made a motion to approve the continuation of the project for a second season. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Billy Mack, of First Coastal, on behalf of Michael Schultz, of 1 Eel Cove, for Phragmite removal. Schultz provided a brief summary of the property and the project. David Cataletto made a motion to approve the request to cut phragmites. Jim Grimes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Brian Schlitt approached the board to discuss putting solar panels on the roof of his home in Lazy Point. Schlitt wanted to understand the process and to see what the board's opinion would be regarding the project. Grimes shared that the Board does not provide a permit but could provide a letter of support. Jim Grimes made a motion to provide Schlitt with a letter of support to move forward with getting approval to put solar panels on his roof in Lazy Point. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The board received a request from Lisa Poyer of Twin Forks Permitting to renew Trustee Permit A-4-22 regarding bulkhead replacement at 75 Water's Edge Rd, SCTM # 300-8-7-10. Poyer was not present. The work had not yet been completed and Poyer is requesting the renewal so the work can be completed. There was a brief discussion among the board. Jim Grimes felt this was an administrative renewal. There was a consensus among the board. The permit will be administratively renewed.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

East Hampton Village had provided the board with proposed changes to the Village code regarding beaches. Attorney Chris Carillo provided language edits for the board to review. The Village is seeking comments regarding the proposed language. The board was satisfied with the proposed changes. A letter will be drafted and sent to the Village of East Hampton.

Bert Waife was present via Zoom and requested, via the same, to address the board regarding the Sag Harbor moorings. Waith sets many of the moorings in the outer mooring field and uses the helical moorings and commented that he would not expect many East Hampton residents to put moorings in that mooring field. Waith felt that Sag Harbor needs to work out how the fee will be administered, specifically regarding how it pertains to contractors and setting up transient moorings. John Aldred suggested Waith bring his comments regarding fees to the Sag Harbor Village board meeting tomorrow evening.

The board received a request from Gerard Butts, of 196 Shore Rd, Lot number 27 N, SCTM#300-85-9-1-9.1, to add Susan Farell to his lease. Francis Bock shared that Chris Carillo suggested the board approve this request as all of the requirements had been satisfied. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the request. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The board received a request from Daniel Neuwirth, of 216 Shore Rd, Lot 21N, SCTM #300-85-1-1.5, to sublet his Lazy Point Lease to Justin Schwartz. Jim Grimes provided an update to the Board regarding the proposed sub-lessee. There had been violations of the Lazy Point rules and regulations. There was a brief discussion regarding communication between the Trustees and Schwartz. Grimes explained there were Food vendor trailers parked on Trustee property and that when Schwartz first approached the Trustees for the first Lazy Point sublease, the Trustees were clear about their expectations and conditions. Schwartz had been asked to remove the trailers and as of the meeting day, they were still on the property. Jim Grimes made a motion to deny the sublease request. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

David Cataletto updated the board regarding the \$1,500 East Hampton Town Trustee Scholarship. The scholarship process is open. Cataletto is hoping the board receives several applications. Cataletto also updated the board regarding the growth in the NYCLASS fund. John Aldred questioned whether the committee had considered increasing the scholarship amount. Jim Grimes reiterated that the original intent of the fund was to grow it to a point where the growth allowed the fund to provide a substantial scholarship amount. Tim Garneau opined that he would like to see the scholarship amount increased to about \$2,500 to align with some of the other

local scholarships. Ben Dollinger asked whether Grimes had a principal amount in mind he would like to see the fund grow into. Grimes and Bock both commented they would like to see it grow to one million dollars. The conversation continued around ways to grow the fund.

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:

Francis Bock asked whether the members got a chance to look at the office files as it pertains to digitizing Trustee files. Celia Josephson suggested hiring an intern to comb through the files for duplicates. The board seemed to support that decision. Bock shared that he and Alyson have had conversations about digitizing applications and questioned how many years the board needs to hold onto the files. Bock suggested the board could begin with the mooring, kayak, and duck blind permits as a way to see what the process entails. The board discussed then moving to another high priority area. The conversation shifted to the way in which the files would be organized. Bock suggested hiring an intern to assist with the document organization. Ben Dollinger had previously suggested looking into hiring an information scientist. Patrice Dalton shared the role would be called a document manager, which is a subset of a librarian. Dalton was concerned about the business value of the project and whether it could be done by the office. The board continued the conversation around how to prep the files for digitization. Aldred suggested that the decision that the board needs to make is HOW to work on this project. Aldred suggested starting with a section of files, such as the dock files, and then moving to a second section. Alyson Follenius asked to provide insight from the office and stated that if the board wishes to move in this direction, she did not see a way in which Arlene and herself alone can do all of the work in addition to their current responsibilities without support. There was further conversation around financing the project, the current footprint of the office and the limited space for future storage. The board tabled the matter for further discussion.

Francis Bock addressed the matter of a Resolution to designate Francis J. Bock as signatory for an appeal bond. This resolution was passed and approved last year but given there is a new board he felt in necessary to pass a new resolution this year. Bock read the resolution into record. David Cataletto made a motion to approve the resolution. Jim Grimes seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously approved.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Education:

Celia Josephson updated the board regarding the Montauk School Science Fair. Josephson participated as a Judge and noted many of the projects were environmentally related. Josephson shared that one of the 5th grade students chose to measure whether the quantity of butter in a cookie impacted consumption of a cookie.

PEP:

Patrice Dalton updated the board regarding the Peconic Estuary Partnership. John Aldred and Dalton attended the recent meeting with other permitting agencies such as Trustees and other permit planners from other towns. The meeting addressed the permitting process with a goal of ensuring the permitting processes protect the environment. Aldred felt East Hampton is ahead of the curve with the permitting process. The conversation shifted to the Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee on Thursday. Dalton and Aldred shared that there will be a presentation by Nicole Maher regarding the state of the marsh.

Largest Clam Contest

David Cataletto shared that the board needs to choose a date for the contest. Cataletto and John Aldred have discussed the best tides for the contest and suggest September 29, 2024. Aldred shared the low tide times in the weeks surrounding that date. Jim Grimes felt comfortable with Sept. 29, 2024. The digging week will be begin September 21, 2024 through Sept. 29, 2024. Ben Dollinger mentioned to Celia Josephson and Patrice Dalton that each Trustee is responsible for going into the community and obtaining three prizes for the prize baskets.

Announcements

The board received a Thank you note from East Hampton High School research student, Finn O'Rourke thanking the board for their donation of \$2,000 to support the purchase of Lotek Satellite Tags for his shark research project.

The clerk transitioned to the Administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: Optimum - \$150.24. Jim Grimes made a motion to pay the bills. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Financials: The financials for the month ending December 31, 2023, were available for review. Patrice Dalton reviewed the financials and made a motion to approve the financials. David Cataletto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of January 22, 2024, were available for review. Celia Josephson had an edit on the minutes, where PD's name was written in place of hers. Alyson Follenius clarified it had already been corrected. David made a motion to approve the minutes. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The clerk transitioned to the Report of the clerk:

John Aldred addressed the dredging of Hog Creek Inlet by the Clear Water Beach Property Owner's Association (CWBPOA). The dredging has been completed and they have been invoiced for the dredge spoil. CWBPOA's intention is to spread the spoil on Clear Water and Lion Head beaches. Jim Grimes asked for clarification that CWBPOA would be paying the Trustees for the sand. Aldred confirmed they were invoiced and would be paying the Trustees for the sand. There was a brief discussion regarding how many yards of sand was dredged. There were 611 cubic yards removed from the Clear Water Beach side and 266 cubic yards from the Lion Head Beach side.

Francis Bock had a resolution to retain counsel regarding a complaint against the Trustees by Aiden Stark. Bock read the resolution into record (see attached B). Jim grimes made a motion to approve. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Ben Dollinger asked whether the board wished to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade and whether Jim Grimes knew the date of the parade. There was conversation regarding unwrapping the pump-out boat for the parade. Francis Bock confirmed that was a possibility. Dollinger mentioned the board should look into purchasing the candies to toss again. Jim Grimes made a motion to provide a budget of \$500 for parade supplies. David Cataletto 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 8:55 p.m.