



**MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 31, 2024**  
**OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY**  
**OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Present: Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk  
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk  
John Aldred  
David Cataletto  
Patrice Dalton  
Tim Garneau  
Celia Josephson

Absent: Francis J. Bock, Clerk  
Ben Dollinger  
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel  
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary

**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 Francis Bock and Ben Dollinger.

**The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:**

Sara Davison, Executive Director of the Friends of Georgica Pond approached the board to revisit her request to take water and sediments samples from Georgica Cove to bring back to the Gobler lab for a photocatalytic study. The study will experiment with adding titanium dioxide to the samples as the compound provides oxygen to the sampling. Organic sediments are deep in Georgica Pond and harbor the largest source of phosphorus in the pond. When sediments are agitated, the phosphorus gets released into the water column. There is currently no means to dredge these muds and dewater appropriately to eliminate these sediments. There has been success in bio-digesting sediments in other waterbodies, which is where the idea of experimenting with the idea of adding the titanium dioxide to the organic matter to break it down comes from. The lab experiments would essentially put the pond water and sediment into a tank and add the titanium dioxide to see how the sediments react and quantify the decomposition of the sediment. The board questioned whether there are non-chemical alternative methods to achieve the same goals and whether Gobler expects a particular reaction. Davison clarified that this process is far from being approved by the DEC and that Gobler has had ancillary experience/knowledge of its use in North Carolina for similar situations. There were concerns as to whether the material will be added to the pond. Davison

confirmed that nothing would be added to the pond. The goal would be to take samples from the pond and bring them to the lab to perform the experiments. It would likely be a multi-year study to obtain long term data.

Jim Grime made a motion to approve the request. There were a few additional questions from the board for which Davison provided the answers. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Davison will return to report at the end of the summer.

#### **The Clerk transitioned to New Business:**

John Aldred provided the board with a recent shell fishing update per the New York State DEC. The newly closed area is in the Northeast corner of Napeague Harbor and the area will now be classified as seasonally uncertified to shell fishing. A map of the area was shown on the screen. Aldred shared that there is not a current issue or concern with bacteria in this area, but this is a precautionary closure. The closure is a result of birds alighting on the Hatchery shellfish gear. The Shellfish Sanitation program administered by the DEC for the National Shellfish sanitation program and the FDA, is responsible for public health and shellfish consumption have focused on the issue of birds alighting on shellfish gear and the potential problems it may cause to the shellfish growing in the gear. The Hatchery has now created a new bird deterrent from their cage floats which was shown on the screen.

#### **The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:**

Jim Grimes provided an update regarding the recent Horseshoe Crab monitoring count. Grimes shared images from the recent count which took place over Memorial Day weekend. Grimes shared that Tim Garneau and John Aldred are also involved in the count. Grimes performs the count in Napeague Harbor with Ben Dollinger. John Aldred and Tim Garneau perform the count in Northwest. They began the count on the new moon and only counted 4 crabs. Tim Garneau shared that Cornell (cooperative extension) sent an email notifying their participants that a crab was found in Jones Beach which had been tagged in Westhampton Beach in 2010. It had been found 14 years after it was tagged. Chris Gangemi, reporter from the East Hampton Star was present at the count and joined in. There is an article in this week's star featuring the count and the program. Garneau also shared that there is currently a bill in the state to ban commercial harvest of horseshoe crabs. Grimes shared that he does not blame the commercial harvesters but rather the loss of breeding habitat. This year the DEC has banned harvesting of horseshoe crabs during the breeding full moon cycle. Grimes acknowledged that Marine Patrol has been doing a fantastic job of making themselves seen at Napeague Harbor. Garneau reported the Northwest count found two days before the full moon, 395 Crabs, with 3 recaptures, full moon 442 crabs with 5 recaptures and two days after the full moon they had 427 crabs with 6 recaptures.

Grimes shared the tip of using a foldable table to bring along with the shore to assist the measuring and tagging.

The deputy clerk transitioned to The Hamptons Pride Parade and asked who was attending. Bill Taylor and David Cataletto will be attending.

John Aldred shared Dr. Gobler's response to the question Patrice Dalton asked at the last meeting regarding data ownership. Aldred read Gobler's response which was "I am happy to share all the data. My goal for the year is to create a sharable data base, which will permit me to perform long term trend analysis and for the Trustees to have the entire data set" Dalton confirmed that the reason for her question was that she was at a recent Peconic Estuary Partnership meeting where integrated land use data and eel grass data was shared. You were able to see how the land use data became denser, the eel grass diminished. Dalton was hoping to be able to share the Gobler water quality data with the PEP database.

#### **The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:**

## **Accabonac/ Hog Creek**

The board received a request from LPS to close out Trustee permit HC-1-23 issued to Bonnie Maslin, owner of 307 Kings Point Rd, SCTM#300-24-1-11 for completion of sand replacement and revegetation. Trustee Patrice Dalton conducted a site inspection with photos in support of closing out this permit. David Cataletto made a motion to close out the permit. Tim Garneau seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### **Harbor Management:**

Jim Grimes received a call from Jim Walker notifying him that the dredging work at Devon Yacht Club has been completed. Grimes shared that their permit required a horseshoe crab monitor and reported no crabs were present in the basin. A notice of commencement was emailed this afternoon. Jim Grimes made a motion to close out

### **Pump Out Boats:**

The pump out season has started, and the boats are operational. The season looks good. Grimes said the boat captains are great workers, especially the head captain who is very organized.

### **The clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:**

**Payment of bills:** The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Star - \$207.51 for legal ad; Seacoast Enterprises - \$588.28 for pump out boat supplies; La Management - \$881.00 for pump out boat supplies; East Hampton Marina- \$341.50 for gas; \$500 general budget for boat supplies. David Cataletto made a motion to pay the bills. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the meeting of May 13, 2024, were available for review. John Aldred made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Grimes and unanimously approved.

**Certificate of Deposit:** The Certificates of Deposits ending in 6683 and 7248 are set to mature. Jim Grimes shared that there was a CD which already matured while the board's accounts were frozen and asked for clarification from trustee secretary Alyson Follenius. Follenius confirmed that the CD ending in 0232 had previously matured just as the accounts were constrained but that the board had already voted to close that account and use it to purchase a Treasury bill. Follenius also confirmed that the CD ending in 6683 matured on May 26, 2024, and is still within the grace period to decide whether to roll it over. The CD ending in 7248 is set to mature on June 7<sup>th</sup>. John Aldred questioned whether the idea is to put these funds into purchasing of Treasury Bills? Jim Grimes clarified that the goal was to combine the CD funds to purchase Treasury Bills at an interest rate of 5%. The current CDs are earning less than 1%. Jim Grimes made a motion to close the CDs and use the money to purchase a Treasury Bill. Tim Garneau seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Financials:** The financials for the month ending March 31, 2024, were tabled until the next meeting.

### **Report of the Clerk:**

Jim Grimes told the board they had received a \$250 donation to the scholarship fund from Neal and Anita Pilzer. The board thanked the Pilzer's for their generosity.

David Cataletto reminded the board that he will be presenting the scholarship this coming week at the East Hampton High Scholl to the scholarship winner.

John Aldred made a motion to close the meeting. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**The meeting closed at 7:34 p.m.**