



**MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 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  
Ben Dollinger  
Patrice Dalton  
Celia Josephson

Absent: Francis J. Bock, Deputy Clerk  
David Cataletto  
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary  
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel  
Kim Shaw, Director – Natural Resources Dept.  
Samantha Schurr – Environmental Tech., Natural Resources Dept.

**The Deputy Clerk opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.**

**The Deputy Clerk requested roll call.** All Trustees were present at roll call except David Cataletto, Ben Dollinger and Francis Bock. Ben Dollinger arrived at 6:31 pm. David Cataletto and Francis Bock were absent from the meeting.

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

Kim Shaw and Samantha Schurr of the Town of East Hampton Natural Resources Department provided updates to the board regarding the Piping Plover Monitoring program. Shaw thanked the Trustees for their support of the summer intern monitoring program. Schurr shared a presentation which outlined the 2023 monitoring data including how many pairs of Plovers nested, how many hatched and fledged as well as how many nests were lost. There was a brief discussion between the board, Shaw and Schurr which included some questions from the board. The conversation included how dredging projects impact nesting areas.

Shaw piggybacked on the topic of dredging and mentioned that she will need to provide the county with a dredge priority list for the year. Historically the priorities include Accabonac Harbor, Northwest Creek and Three Mile Harbor. Shaw emphasized she is working to expand the existing dredge permit for Northwest to include removing

some of the shoal which has been created. John Aldred shared that the board has additional analysis be included in Dr. Gober's water testing of Northwest Creek. Bill Taylor added that the board has also requested further sediment testing from the area of Accabonac Harbor channel where the county stops dredging and the launch ramp at Louse Point. The Trustees understand that the county may not wish to dredge that area because the bottom material may not be beach compatible. Shaw confirmed the county may be hesitant to place material too close to the inlet to reduce the likelihood it would re-shoal. Aldred circled back to confirm that Accabonac Harbor seems to be in the greatest need of dredging and should be a priority. Shaw confirmed Suffolk County recently completed a survey in the harbor and has resubmitted a renewal of the 10-year permit to the DEC for dredging the Accabonac Inlet. Several board members expressed and reiterated that the board would like to see the county dredge the inlet and continue to the launch ramp. Patrice Dalton mentioned the baymen and recreational boaters have had difficulty navigating the channel because of the sand accretion. Additionally, Aldred questioned what steps need to be taken to get the county to dredge all of the way to the ramp, specifically with so many agencies involved. Shaw explained that the DEC issues the permit to the county. Any permit modification would need to go through a dredge screening process. There are certain criteria which must be met when expanding upon a current permitted activity. Shaw added that the reason the county does not dredge to the ramp is due to the concentration of non-beach compatible material. It is possible but that material would need to be dredged, dried and removed from the site. The conversation continued and the board requested that they would like to see the sediment data collected last year be shared with the county. Shaw confirmed an application could be submitted to the dredge screening committee for an extension of the Accabonac Inlet project and include the report to support the request. Jim Grimes referenced past conversations about elevating the height of the Accabonac Marsh and that the material by the ramp would likely be compatible with the marsh. Grimes questioned whether this could occur on a trial or experimental basis. Shaw confirmed there was a study done in the Rockaways where the islands were settling and sprayed a slurry mix comprised of the dredged material. The project was outlined in a report titled "*Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material.*" Several board members felt this may be a beneficial path to pursue. Dalton also shared that she has received complaints from baymen and paddleboarders about the condition of the launch ramp at Louse Point. It is deteriorating. Grimes clarified that the board has done general maintenance of ramps in other locations. Dalton has also notified Steven O'Brian of Buildings and Maintenance. Shaw announced she will circle back to the board after their meeting with Fish and Wildlife but also asked the board if they would be willing to support the upcoming "Dogs and Donuts" educational outreach event at Atlantic Ave. The event seeks to inform dog owners about the piping plovers on the beaches. Dalton asked whether the Trustees would be opposed to having the ARF van present for the event as well. A brief conversation continued, and Shaw will circle back with more details.

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

Patrice Dalton provided an update to the board regarding the Flamingo which was spotted on Georgica Pond. Dalton shared she had been in touch with the president of the Eastern Long Island Audubon Society. He confirmed there had been a Flamingo present in the 90's and that it hung around until it was cold and then it left. Dalton hoped the information would quash concerns that the bird needed to be captured. Jim Grimes emphasized that there had been people eager to photograph the bird, but it is important that in doing so not to harass the bird.

Celia Josephson updated the board regarding the Coastal Resilience seminar that she and Patrice Dalton attended in Montauk. The meeting was attended by government officials, scientific researchers, business owners and other stakeholders. The goal is to eliminate the divide between these groups and begin to work collaboratively. Josephson emphasized that even though Montauk is not within Trustee jurisdiction, there are areas which are under trustee jurisdiction which experience similar coastal erosion. The concerning issues include shoreline

erosion due to sea level rise, flood damage and reduction of access to coastal areas. The meeting discussed future strategies such as accommodating the risks of a coastal event or retreat from coastal areas was the best path forward.

The goals are to work with nature rather than utilize hard shoreline structures which can aggravate or increase erosion overall. Beach nourishment is only an interim step. The meeting also discussed funding and the level of coordination which will be required between all agencies and partners. East Hampton Town just received a \$600,000 grant from New York State. The Army Corps of Engineers has already placed approximately 600,000 cubic yards of sand on downtown Montauk Beaches and will continue to place another 400,000 cubic yards every four years over the course of the next 15 years. Josephson's takeaway from the meeting was that managing the coastal erosion issues will require cooperation and coordination among the various levels of government and that there will be a need for transparency throughout the process as it moves forward. Ben Dollinger asked where the \$600,000 grant was earmarked to be spent. Jim Grimes shared that coastal erosion is not new, but that East Hampton has begun to experience the effects of sea level rise especially with the increase in building on waterfront properties. There were shared sentiments among the board that all stakeholders will need to come to the table to work out a comprehensive plan. There was further discussion about erosion at Lazy Point, how dredging the former Napeague Harbor Inlet may provide sand for beach nourishment of the area as a temporary mechanism to buy time before retreat or retire of those properties would be needed and of the slight positive results coming from the PEMS project.

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

John Aldred shared that there have been reports from Dr. Gobler's lab on the presence of blue-green algae in Wainscott Pond. Aldred shared the concentrations from recent samplings. The board emphasized that the pond is shallow with no public access. There was a brief conversation before LTV shared that there was a caller on the line.

A caller, who did not identify themselves, shared that they were having difficulty hearing the meeting and was concerned the board may need to update the technology. LTV shared they were able to hear from their monitors and asked the caller to share more details, but the caller had hung up.

John Aldred provided a brief update regarding the current Spring trawl survey led by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) as part of the agreement with Orsted. The Trawl survey was scheduled to take place between June 6 and June 12, 2024. The fishing vessel, Bulldog, out of Shinnecock and it can be reached on VHF Channel 13 or 16 if the public wishes to know the vessel's daily trolling schedule. The survey updates will be available on CCE Fisheries' Facebook page.

John Aldred updated the board that the mosquito larvae survey will begin tomorrow, June 11, 2024, and will monitor following the moon cycles. Aldred provided the survey dates. Aldred noted that if anyone is interested in doing the surveys to reach out to him. Aldred will be happy to have someone join him for the survey. Aldred will be working with Edwina Von Gal who will be doing the walk from her house and north on the marsh. Aldred will be doing the walk south of her house to Merrill Lake Preserve, approximately a 3-mile walk. Celia Josephson asked how the survey is performed. Aldred provided a brief explanation as to how the survey takes place and how the data are recorded.

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

Patrice Dalton shared that recent sampling of Fresh Pond showed high levels of *Enterococcus* bacteria. There was a brief discussion around the potential sources of the bacteria. John Aldred expressed that he was not aware of the sampling methods by CCOM or Surfrider but is familiar with the DEC's methods. The DEC samples near rainfall events and Aldred confirmed that sampling after a rainfall will result in higher concentrations in the samples compared to sampling in dry weather. The DEC sampling also occurs during an outgoing tide to capture the concentrations of any particular bacteria which would be in the harbor itself and not simply moving past the sampling site. Aldred was generally pointing out that it is important to look at the sampling protocols to understand if the results indicate a significant problem in any body of water. Dalton shared that she spoke with the Suffolk County Department of Health, Ecology Division who informed her that they sample the bathing beaches regularly in season but that would begin next week. The conversation continued as Aldred shared that the Health Department would sample the bathing area at the end of the creek from Fresh Pond, which in the same sampling as discussed prior, did not show the bacteria present. Yet, bacteria were present in the creek. Jim Grimes mentioned that if these numbers are concerning throughout the season, it may be beneficial to include source tracking in Fresh Pond to Dr. Gobler's water sampling project for next year. There was mention of the public bathrooms nearby, but Dalton confirmed the health department was not confident it would have come from there as the concentrations indicated a transient source.

### **Horseshoe Crab Survey:**

Jim Grimes provided a brief update on the last Horseshoe count and shared the data. Grimes summarized that there was a steady decline in numbers over the course of the three count nights in Napeague Harbor. Grimes shared that there is an upcoming count on the New Moon. Tim Garneau and John Aldred also noted a drop off in the count numbers during their count in Northwest.

### **The Deputy Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:**

**Payment of bills:** The following bills need to be paid: Seacoast Enterprises - \$595.36 for dock lines/fenders/paint/boat wash; the East Hampton Star - \$207.51; East Hampton Marina - \$75 fuel and supplies; Riverhead Building Supply - \$384.03 for pump out boat season prep supplies; Montauk Marine Basin - \$222.57 for fuel. Tim Garneau made a motion to pay the bills. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

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

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

Jim Grimes provided a quick and brief update regarding the pump out season. Grimes shared that over the weekend there was an incident where the shore tank in Montauk overflowed. Grimes clarified that the matter was handled, and the company came out to empty the tank. Alyson Follenius shared that the town is currently working with the engineer for the new tank set up and there seemed to be an alarm failure.

Patrice Dalton revisited the matter of the PEP meeting. Dalton provided a summary of the meeting. The topics discussed included sampling of the Horseshoe Crabs, threats to the horseshoe crab population and telemetry tracking of horseshoe crabs. Dalton asked if other members of the board had seen crabs with the tracking devices. Jim Grimes confirmed that at the beginning of the season CCE asked volunteers to look for crabs which are above the waterline. Tim Garneau explained that his team in Northwest informed CCE that they saw crabs in this area and that CCE came out, captured a female and tagged her. Garneau explained that CCE was specifically looking for crabs which like to mate in the surf or on the sand as the transponder will not work beneath the surface and most of the crabs they find are underwater.

Jim Grimes added that last Friday he spoke with a member of the public at the Trustee office that was interested in getting Turtle Crossing signs in the area of Mile Hill Road. Grimes informed the public that if anyone knows of any areas which may benefit from signs, to reach out to the Trustee office. Grimes will be getting signs to the sign shop for sturdier signs to be made.

Tim Garneau made a motion to close. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**The meeting closed at 7:53 p.m.**