



MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2024
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis Bock, Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
David Cataletto
Patrice Dalton

Absent: Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
Ben Dollinger
Tim Garneau
Celia Josephson

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Chris Carillo, Trustee Counsel

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 Ben Dollinger, Tim Garneau, Jim Grimes and Celia Josephson.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment: There was no one present for public comment.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

The Suffolk County DPW's 10-year permit for dredging of the west inlet of Napeague Harbor is expiring soon and the county is requesting a letter of permission from the Trustees to include, as part of the permit renewal application. John Aldred had a brief conversation with Kim Shaw regarding the matter. Aldred and Shaw also spoke about the permitting of the east channel. Shaw mentioned a permit modification could be made at a later date. The board continued the discussion about the possibility of opening the former east channel in Napeague. David Cataletto made a motion to write the letter of approval. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Patrice Dalton questioned whether Shaw had mentioned anything regarding the county dredging permit for Accabonac Harbor. The board had a brief discussion regarding the Accabonac dredging permit status and touched back on the Trustees' desire to have the county dredge to the launch ramp. Dalton said there had been concern about a decline in the amount of Marsh Sparrows in the area. There was a hypothesis that

there might be mercury in the sediment in the area near the launch ramp, which was the cause of the diminishing marsh sparrows. Dalton said the Marsh Sparrows have returned so the mercury signal may have remediated itself.

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture

John Aldred shared with the board that Dr. Christopher Gobler received a call from a resident in the Folkstone area, who noticed discoloration of the water in the boat basin at the end of Sunset Creek. The Gobler lab tested the water and found higher concentrations of dinoflagellates. These organisms are not harmful to humans but may be harmful to juvenile shellfish. Aldred also received the results of the Harmful Algal Blooms in Wainscott Pond. The concentrations are increasing at 145.26 micrograms per liter in Wainscott Pond. The good news is that no elevated levels have been detected in the Lion's Head Beach Association's Ponds.

Horseshoe Crab Monitoring

John Aldred provided an update regarding the final 2024 horseshoe crab monitoring counts. Aldred provided the numbers of crabs counted by Courtney Garneau in Northwest Creek. Aldred shared the history behind how the horseshoe count began. Many years ago, a resident of the area reached out to the Trustees to express concern that the beach driving was interfering with horseshoe crab breeding. Thus began the survey. Aldred outlined the transects the team walks to complete the count in comparison to where most people drive along the beach there. Aldred also shared that he is not certain why people drive on the beach in this area. Aldred suggested the board may want to consider restricting driving along the Mile Hill portion during horseshoe crab mating season. Aldred explained that at high tide, if the water gets to the tire tracks, it is a soupy mix and it may be impacting the crab mating.

Mosquito Larvae Survey

John Aldred gave an update on the Accabonac Harbor Mosquito Larvae Survey. Aldred completed the survey this morning and there were a lot of larvae in the hotspots. A map of Accabonac was shown on the screen and depicted the hot spot areas where the larvae were in the highest concentrations. Aldred described the transects that he and Edwina Von Gal completed. As a result, the county will spray (drop pellets) over the marsh in the areas of the hotspots.

Pump Out Boats

There was a very brief discussion regarding the status of the pump out boat program. The challenges experienced at the beginning of the season have been resolved and the program is functioning smoothly.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Marina - \$178.82 and \$149.10 for fuel. Bill Taylor made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by John Aldred and unanimously approved.

Financials: The financials for the months ending March 31, 2024, and April 30, 2024, were available for review. Patrice Dalton shared that she and Arlene made some formatting changes to the financial reports and

that she reviewed them carefully. Patrice Dalton made a motion to accept the financials for both months. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: Regarding the minutes of June 10, 2024, John Aldred made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Patrice Dalton and unanimously approved.

Other:

John Aldred shared with the board that Marine Patrol have come across people doing recreational shell fishing in the newly seasonally closed area in the corner of Napeague Harbor. The DEC has put posts on the beach to delineate the closed area, but it appears people are unaware of what the posts signify. The Harbormaster asked whether the Trustees would be interested in posting signs. Aldred explained there are some complicated issues. There are areas of the bottom lands owned by the state, areas owned by the Trustees and the beach is State Parkland. Aldred asked the board if they feel the Trustees should post informational signs? Or if there should be a conversation with the DEC requesting, they post signs, or should the Trustees ask Marine Patrol to post signs. Francis Bock shared that he felt the board should reach out to the state parks department to let them know the board would like to post signs. There was additional conversation around how commercial shell fishermen were likely notified of the closure, but recreational fishermen were likely not notified in the same way. The board discussed where on Trustee property a sign could be posted. Some members suggested posting a sign at Lazy Point, in case anyone launches from Lazy Point to access that Northeast corner of the harbor. David Cataletto shared sentiments from a local resident which was expressed to him over the weekend. The residents do not understand the closure because there has been shell fishing in that area for years and the birds have also been there for years. Aldred shared a bit of the history of the shellfish hatchery growing seeds in the area and that the concern is for potential high concentrations of fecal coliform. Some board members felt some signage was necessary. Francis Bock and Patrice Dalton felt that the board should notify the State Parks Department of the matter to loop them in on the matter. The board will reach out to the State Parks Department.

John Aldred shared that he received an email from Chris Gobler earlier this afternoon. The board previously gave Gobler a permit to grow sugar kelp off Barcelona Point. Gobler is now seeking permission to grow oysters and sea grass in a variety of spots in the area as part of their Peconic Estuary project. John Aldred made a motion to allow Dr Gobler to grow sea grass and oysters, in addition to kelp off Barcelona Point. Bill Taylor seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Patrice Dalton shared that she was notified by a baymen that there is some eelgrass growing off Cuffee's (Well) Landing. Dalton reached out to the hatchery to notify them and mentioned to be on the lookout for it. John Aldred mentioned that widgeon grass has been replacing eel grass in Hog Creek. There was a discussion about whether the diminished number of scallops is tied to the scarcity of eel grass.

David Cataletto made a motion to close the meeting. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 7:29 p.m.