



MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2024
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis Bock, Clerk
Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
David Cataletto
Patrice Dalton
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. Attorney Chris Carillo arrived at 6:34 pm.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:

Jean Galante, of Land Planning Services, approached the board on behalf of Suan Halpern, owner of 48 Georgica Close Rd, SCTM# 301-7-3-6, with an application to cut phragmites. David Cataletto visited the site with Galante. Cataletto briefly explained the project. Galante shared that permit applications to the other appropriate agencies are under way. Jim Grimes shared the narrative was brief and asked if there were any other invasives in the vicinity. Grimes shared details around optimum management methods and suggested the applicant edit their project narrative to provide more detailed information around their planned cutting, explain which species are in the area including other invasives and other details of the plan. Grimes requested a more detailed narrative outlining the plan so that it aligns with the management expectations of other agencies as well. David Cataletto made a motion to approve the permit request. Jim Grimes seconded the motion with the condition that the applicant modify the narrative to include the aforementioned information. It was unanimously approved.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

Patrice Dalton updated the board regarding the new Horseshoe Crab Legislation. Bill - A10140, which was passed by the New York State Senate and Assembly. It passed in the Senate with a vote of 53 in favor and 7 opposed

and in the Assembly with a vote of 102 in favor and 39 opposed. The Bill will then have to go to the Governor for signature in order for it to become a law. The Bill proposes to ban all harvesting of Horseshoe crabs for any reason, including the taking of Horseshoe crabs for commercial purposes. The Bill discusses the biomedical purposes for the use of Horseshoe crab blood. Dalton shared that Horseshoe crab blood was utilized during covid to test the vaccines. Fishermen also use the Horseshoe crabs as bait. There are currently no large-scale commercial operations for the biomedical harvesting of the crabs in New York State. Dalton then provided an explanation for the bio-medical uses of the horseshoe crab blood. The concerns of the NY State Assemblymen and Senators are, that there is a potential for the over harvesting of the Horseshoe crabs. They would prefer it if synthetic alternatives could be made available for use as bait and in the biomedical field. Jim Grimes commented that the Horseshoe crabs have received “notoriety” in recent years. Grimes has noticed that his team has had an audience during the Horseshoe crab counts and fears people are misinformed and confuse the team counting with poachers. Grimes expressed, and asked John Aldred to confirm, that there are less baymen today than there were thirty years ago. This would suggest there are less horseshoe crabs being harvested. Grimes said the number of crabs increased significantly on the second night of the survey. Tim Garneau explained that he received an update from Matt Scalfani from the Cornell Cooperative Extension and that they have retrieved more recaptures this year than were originally captured in the last 10 years and that the programs data was shared on a poster presentation at the International Horseshoe Crab Convention in Singapore last month. The presentation was shared with other countries to show how large-scale community monitoring programs can be implemented. Dalton suggested that the local data needs to be incorporated with the Data from other areas to give a better understanding of the trends.

Although the Bill has some support, it does not appear to have support among the local maritime community. There was more discussion around the timeline of the bill working through the state legislature and who sponsored the bill. Dalton wanted to ensure that the baymen were represented and it seems as though the baymen are unsure how to weigh in. Dalton explained that the legislature is not in session at the moment but that the Governor has until the end of the year to sign the bill. Once it reaches her desk, there is a 30-day window to sign the bill, or it dies. Aldred reminded the board of his concerns surrounding beach driving during crab mating season. The clerk questioned who was going to draft the letter to the Governor to express the board’s opinion. Jim Grimes will work on a draft with the Trustee Attorney.

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business: There was no new business to discuss.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture:

John Aldred reported on the status of the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). There was sampling completed on July 3, 2024. The results indicated Wainscott Pond continued to have elevated levels of HABs but were lower than the previous sampling. Pond Lane Pond, in the Lion Head Community, showed high levels of HABs. Fort Pond in Montauk also showed some elevated algal growth, but the concentrations were below concerning levels.

Mosquito Larvae Survey:

John Aldred provided an update regarding the recent findings of last week’s Mosquito Larvae Survey. Aldred had three volunteers join the survey. Aldred took the team out on Wednesday last week to train them. The team went out again today. Aldred shared a map of all the sampling areas as well as those which were positive for larvae and pupae stage mosquitoes. The Accabonac Harbor will be treated in these areas. Napeague will also be treated. Aldred shared the treatment plan for the week.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Marina - \$331.85 (fuel); Montauk Angler's Club – \$972.42 (100-hour boat service); Optimum - \$123.25; Dogs & Donuts event - \$407.34 (estimate for food and coffee). The clerk clarified that the estimate was for coffee and donuts for the event with the Town's Natural Resources Department. The clerk asked Patrice Dalton to share a summary of the event. Dalton provided a summary of the event and explained it is an educational event to increase awareness around Piping Plovers, their life cycle and the importance of leashing dogs around their nesting areas. The event will be held at Atlantic Ave on July 20, 2024. The Trustees will sponsor the event with coffee and donuts. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the paying of the bills. Tim Garneau seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Financials: The financials for the months ending May 31, 2024, were available for review. Patrice Dalton reviewed the financials and was satisfied with them. Patrice Dalton made a motion to approve the financials. David Cataletto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The Clerk Transitioned to Report of the Clerk:

Francis Bock updated the board regarding a request from a mooring permit holder who has asked to put a friend's boat small motorboat on his mooring for this season as he is unable to utilize his sailboat due to health issues. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the request upon the condition that the boat is registered. Tim Garneau seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

John Aldred just heard from the Cornell Cooperative Extension. They will be starting their Summer Trawl survey this week. John Aldred said he would like to get Cornell and Stony Brook to present a report to the Trustees. All the information will be updated on the Trustee website. Fisherman may contact Cornell or the sampling boat directly. The boat can be reached on VHF channel 16. Fixed gear fisherman should notify the survey boat of the location of their gear.

Patrice Dalton shared that Robert Vasiluth was at Cedar Point Park in Northwest, East Hampton this weekend diving to collect eel grass seeds. He collected a lot of eel grass seeds. John Aldred said Robert Vasiluth will be seeding in Napeague Harbor. He will also use other seeds to hopefully replenish the eel grass in Great South Bay.

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

The meeting closed at 7:26 p.m.