



MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2024
OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY
OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Present: Francis J. Bock, Clerk
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk
John Aldred
David Cataletto
Patrice Dalton
Ben Dollinger
Tim Garneau
Celia Josephson

Absent: Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary
Chris Carillo, 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 Jim Grimes.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:

EHHS research student, Jocelyn Garcia along with Dr. Bob Tymann of South Fork Sea Farmers, addressed the board to request permission to construct an oyster reef in Three Mile Harbor between East Hampton Marina and Three Mile Marina. Jocelyn provided a brief presentation, outlined the plan for constructing the reef and provided some updates from her existing reefs in Accabonac Harbor. Garcia highlighted that the Accabonac Reefs are beginning to experience natural set which the board was pleased to hear. Garcia fielded a few questions from board members who were all supportive of the additional reef. Garcia thanked the board.

Christopher Carillo addressed the board and mentioned Brian Lydon was present on Zoom. Carillo addressed the request from Brian Lydon of 281 Shore Rd in Lazy Point, to remove his deceased father from his lease. Carillo acknowledged it was an administrative matter and all documentation was in order. Carillo shared the Trustees would be approving the request to issuing a new lease administratively through their Attorney. Lydon joined the meeting via Zoom and briefly spoke to explain the situation.

Regarding the previous presentation by Jocelyn Garcia and Dr. Robert Tyman of the South Fork Sea Farmers, to construct an Oyster reef in Three Mile Harbor, a motion was made by John Aldred to approve the application. The motion was seconded by Ben Dollinger and unanimously approved.

Dr. Christopher Gobler addressed the Board regarding his 2023 Water Quality Report. He said this is their 10th year report and that he is excited and honored to have this partnership for ten years with the East Hampton Town Trustees.

Dr. Gobler began his presentation of the report, which is available on the Trustees website under the heading “Reports”. You can also watch the meeting, recorded by LTV to see his full presentation. Dr. Gobler began his presentation by showing photographs of how beautiful the East Hampton area is. He pointed out that all development that happens on the upland has a direct effect on the groundwater which becomes our drinking water and enters our surface waters. Most nitrogen loading comes from wastewater discharged from septic systems. Fertilizers are the second largest contributor to nitrogen in our waterways. He then showed a map of Long Island highlighting all the areas with impaired water. Harmful algae blooms and low oxygen are two examples of compromising issues effecting Long Island Waters.

Dr. Gobler used DNA tracking to see the causes of fecal bacteria in Trustee waterways. Microbial source tracking is used to distinguish the source of the fecal bacteria, whether it is of ruminant, birds, human or dog sources.

Dr. Gobler’s study for the Trustees includes, among other items:

- Assessing spatial and temporal trends in water quality including surface mapping.
- Quantifying the temporal and spatial dynamics of marine and freshwater harmful algae blooms.
- Quantifying the temporal and spatial dynamics of fecal coliform bacteria and enterococcus.
- Using microbial source tracking to identify the source of the pathogenic bacteria.
- Doing a sediment survey of Napeague Harbor and Accabonac Harbor.

The Trustees are testing at 24 different sites.

The first thing Dr. Gobler sampled was temperature. Napeague Harbor and Accabonac Harbor showed their highest temperatures ever. Next on the list was Chlorophyll testing. Accabonac Harbor and Hog Creek had the highest Chlorophyll load. Chlorophyll usually lines up with the amount of Nitrogen in the system. Three Mile Harbor showed lower temperature and lower Chlorophyll levels than in previous years. The testing then moved onto testing for Alexadrium, the cause of paralytic shellfish poisoning, Dinophysis, which causes Diarrhetic Shellfish poisoning and Cochlodinium which causes the rust tides. Dissolved Oxygen levels were also tested. The biology of warmer weather has led to lower oxygen levels. Eutrophication happens when nitrogen loading causes algal blooms which then create low oxygen levels in the water. When Dr. Gobler measured total nitrogen in Trustee waters, five sites exceeded the recommended level of nitrogen. Hog Creek, Accabonac and Three Mile Harbor had 5 out of the 24 high Nitrogen sites.

Dr. Gobler has introduced the use of the HYCAT – an autonomous surface vehicle which can be programmed to map the surface of the water remotely. It measures salinity, depth, temperature, oxygen and chlorophyll.

There was a lot of rain in July and August of 2023. In addition to more overall inches of rainfall falling, there were harder rainfall events with 3 or 4 inches coming down at once. This caused a high then usual number of fecal bacteria in the waterways.

After Dr. Gobler's presentation he hosted a Q & A session with the Trustees. The Trustees then formed a committee to determine the Trustees water quality testing goals for 2024.

Christine Ganitsch of the Litter Action Committee addressed the board to discuss their upcoming "No Fling Spring" event. There will be several trash pickup events in partnership with other organizations and agencies. Ganitsch asked if the Trustees would participate again in Lazy Point, together with the Lazy Point community. Ganitsch also announced there would be a film screening on May 9th, at the East Hampton Public Library called, "The Story of Plastics". The event will be concluded with a dance at the Springs Presbyterian Church. The dates for the trash pickups are still pending. There are three scheduled for April 20, along Springs Fireplace Road.

Mark Mendelman, of Three Mile Harbor Marina addressed the board to request a renewal of two permits. The first permit allows for the movement of two finger piers and the second is to do construction on the bulkhead at Three Mile Harbor Marina. John Aldred made a motion to renew both permits. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The permits will be renewed from the time of their current expiration date.

Peter Mendelman, of 60 Harbor View Lane, approached the board to request a renewal of his permit for reconstruction of his bulkhead. P. Mendelman has been waiting to receive a NRSP from the Town of East Hampton. P. Mendelman added he is working with Cornell Cooperative Extension to install a Permeable Reactive Barrier. Cornell has received a grant through the town for the PRB installation. Bill Taylor made a motion to approve the request to renew for a year with the new permit date beginning when the old one expires. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

P. Mendelman then addressed the Board regarding proposed sites for the Suffolk County aquaculture lease program and his concern that Kelp lines may cause navigational and recreational hazards. There is an upcoming public hearing in Riverhead on this matter.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

David Cataletto updated the board regarding the Trustees' participation in the Montauk Friends of Erin Parade. The Trustees enjoyed tossing necklaces and treats to the crowds, while also educating the public about the pump out boat program. There were six members of the Surfrider Club participating with the Trustees in the Parade also.

John Aldred initiated a discussion regarding the need to choose a new location for the kayak rack at Fresh Pond. He showed aerial images of the state of the current rack. The board had a brief discussion around new locations. The board decided to move the rack slightly to the west in a sandy nook behind the vegetation.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Aquaculture:

Salt Marsh Restoration Grants – Two applications for Grants for Salt Marsh Restorations were made to the PEP. One grant request was made to NOAA from the Nature Conservancy for work on the Accabonac Marsh and other Marshes. The same proposal was also made to the Peconic Estuary Partnership through the EPA.

Maher submitted a pre- proposal to the EPA, and they requested a complete proposal from her. There were other grants applications made to the EPA also. The Trustees would like to submit a letter of support to the EPA. The Trustees already wrote a letter of support to NOAA.

Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program – John Aldred provided additional information regarding the lease program and acknowledged that Peter Mendelman had shared most of the details earlier in the meeting. There will be a public hearing on April 10 at 6:55 pm in Riverhead. There was a brief discussion about the lease program

Three Mile Harbor:

Request from Keith Grimes, Inc, on behalf of John Herrlin, to renew Trustee Permit T #6–23, issued to 183 Three Mile Harbor HC Rd, SCTM# 300-94-1-2.1, for bulkhead replacement. John Aldred said they had already approved this permit, and the work just hasn't been done yet. A motion was made by John Aldred to renew Trustee Permit T #6-23. The motion was seconded by David Cataletto and unanimously approved.

The clerk transitioned to Administrative:

Payment of bills: Hodgson Russ, LLP, legal invoice for \$123,310.80 was tabled.

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of March 11, 2024, were available for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Aldred. The motion was seconded by Patrice Dalton and unanimously approved.

Financials: The Financials for the months ended January 31, 2024, and February 29, 2024, were available for review. A motion was made by Patrice Dalton to approve the financials. The motion was seconded by Tim Garneau and unanimously approved.

Renewal of Certificate of Deposit ending in 0232 is maturing. A motion was made by Francis Bock to renew the CD ended 0232. The motion was seconded by Tim Garneau and unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Tim Garneau to close the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by John Aldred, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.