



**MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 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  
Celia Josephson
- Absent: Ben Dollinger  
Tim Garneau
- Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary  
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary  
Chris Carillo, Trustee General 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 Tim Garneau and Ben Dollinger.

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

Natalie Mongan addressed the board with a project proposal. Mongan is an East Hampton High School student. Mongan shared that she devised a project for her AP Methods and Research class. Mongan’s project entailed measuring the beach at Atlantic Ave over the course of three winter months. Mongan shared her project methods and further details. Mongan’s hypothesis, based on her research, is the concept of mean high tide is “unworkable.” Mongan’s proposed project is seeking permission to install small ¾” cup hooks on thirteen town beaches including Town Line, Beach Lane, Georgica, Main Beach, Two Mile, Indian Wells, Atlantic, Napeague, White Sands, Navahoe Lane, Kirk Park, South Edison and Ditch Plains. The hooks would be used to attach a line to be used to measure the beach. The goal would be to involve ‘citizen scientists’ to participate with measurements. The board had a variety of questions regarding Mongan’s previous research in addition to asking for clarity about the project methods. Dan Mongan, Natalie’s father, joined the conversation to clarify where Natalie had placed the hook for her research as there were concerns about the posts being movable objects. Maryanne Eddie, a resident, offered that Pete Topping, the Peconic Bay Keeper shared that the concept is similar to Natalie’s project.

John Aldred made a motion to approve Mongan's request. Jim Grimes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mary Ann Eddy approached the board to discuss the Sag Harbor Water Quality Initiative. Eddy requested the presentation to be pulled up however the secretary had not received it. There was a brief pause while the presentation was emailed to the secretary.

Patrice Dalton took the pause to bring up that she has observed people making beach fires in metal containers but dumping the ashes on the beach. The board had a brief discussion around it.

Mary Ann Eddy was able to begin the presentation. Eddy shared some of the results of Dr. Gobler's water quality testing in Sag Harbor. Eddy highlighted the high levels of fecal coliform at Windmill Beach, the small beach near the windmill in Sag Harbor Village. Eddy continued to share results for enterococcus and the microbial source tracking which was sampled. There was a brief conversation regarding the microbial source tracking and the data found. Eddy shared information regarding the grant funding the Sag Harbor Village has received and is hoping to receive in the future. Eddy shared the village is seeking funding for green and gray infrastructure. John Aldred asked for clarification around what constitutes green infrastructure. Eddy clarified green infrastructures are rain gardens and explained they are reconstructing an area of the parking area with permeable pavers which would flow into rain gardens. There were additional questions and Eddy continued with the presentation. Eddy shared the signs the village plans to post on each of the beaches which contain a QR code for the public to utilize for access to information. Eddy shared the upcoming sampling plan for this year in addition to reminding the board that there will be a referendum on the upcoming ballot for the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act. Additional conversation ensued and concluded with Eddy requesting \$3,000 for support from the Trustees. Jim Grimes questioned how the funds were going to be collected and acknowledged that the Trustee office has been the fund collector on the behalf of Sag Harbor Village for the last several years, which has involved chasing after participating municipalities. Eddy responded that Sag Harbor did not have an account with Gobler and that is why the Trustees have been the handler. Grimes explained that there is a significant workload for the Trustee office staff and does not believe it should be. Eddy promised to do the leg work around gathering all of the other contributions. John Aldred made a motion to approve the request and support with \$3,000. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**The Clerk transitioned to New Business:**

The clerk brought up the matter of Special Events on Town Beaches and explained that he would like to form a committee to discuss Trustee policy pertaining to events on town beaches as the policies are different than both the Town and the Village. Jim Grimes, Patrice Dalton and attorney Chris Carillo will join.

Jim Grimes updated the board that the launch at the Wainscott rest area needs attention. Grimes is requested permission from the board to add gravel to the ramp to allow for safer access especially since hunting season will begin soon. The clerk asked if any members had an issue with the expenditure. There were no opposing comments.

**The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:**

John Aldred brought up the matter of the Resolution to Delay the Opening of Scallop Season. Aldred read the resolution into record. Jim Grimes made a motion to approve the resolution. Celia Josephson seconded the motion,

and it was unanimously approved. Aldred also shared that the Town Board has scheduled a public hearing regarding amending the town code to change the opening date to the first Sunday after the Monday of the State opening.

John Aldred provided an update on the Horseshoe Crab Working Group, partially sponsored by PEP and Seatuck. John Turner, of Seatuck, shared information regarding the migratory shore birds which use the horseshoe crab eggs for sustenance. Dave Smith, a retired USGS researcher, first addressed the matter of synthetic LAL usage, the substance used in biomedical research. Higher level regulatory agencies have approved its use. Additional points shared by Smith at the meeting were that a large harvest is sustainable in a healthy population and that habitat loss is an important component of declining population numbers. The east coast population in the last ten years is stronger than the previous ten years. The habitat data from Japan show a 90% loss in the horseshoe crab population as a result of habitat loss as it pertains to coastal development. Beach Driving was included as a contributing factor. Jennifer Lander from the DEC also made a presentation during the meeting. The DEC had an annual take limit at 300,000, given to NY by regional regulators. The DEC voluntarily reduced it to 150,000. In 2024, only 120,000 of the 150,000-take limit was harvested. Jim Grimes acknowledged that there are fewer baymen harvesting so the numbers are not surprising. Peconic constitutes 10% of the harvest. Matt Scalfani added that Peconic has the lowest spawning index of NY's survey regions and is not as robust as other parts of the island and included discussion regarding threats and conservation. The recent Horseshoe crab legislation was brought up as a topic and the DEC representative explained the DEC was opposed to the amended legislation and preferred the current regulations. Generally, the main points of the meeting, of interest to the Trustees, were habitat destruction and DEC opposition to the proposed legislation banning all taking of horseshoe crabs by the fishery. John Aldred commented that he would like to pursue, in Trustee domain, holding off on beach driving during horseshoe crab spawning. The earliest spawning begins at the beginning of the survey cycle in May and concludes around June. Jim Grimes commented that it seems to conclude by mid-June in his area. David Cataletto looked up the life cycle and explained that it takes approximately four weeks from spawn to hatching. The board examined the timeline and concluded it would likely need to be closed until Mid-July. Aldred suggested that the Northwest area near Mile Hill is an area the Trustees have jurisdiction over that also allow beach driving. There was a brief discussion on the matter. The clerk asked Aldred to clarify what he is proposing. Aldred explained he is proposing enrolling other interested parties into the conversation. The board agreed and Aldred will reach out to the Town Natural Resource Department and other interested parties.

John Aldred also updated the board regarding the Mosquito Larvae counts. Aldred surveyed last Tuesday and did not observe many larvae. The tide had not come up yet and the temperatures have cooled. Aldred received a summary of the season. There were only two treatments which took place on June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>. There were two other weeks where counts showed enough larvae to have resulted in treatments, but weather and other conditions did not allow them to fly/treat. It was generally a quite marsh season tide-wise. The board discussed this briefly and moved on.

John Aldred provided updates on the Blue Green Algae concentrations in local ponds. On Sept. 9, 2024, there was concentration of 93.7 µg/L in Pond Lane Pond. The concentration of algae in Wainscott Pond on Sept. 11, 2024 was 494.9 µg/L. The concentration of Blue Green Algae in Wainscott Pond has remained around 4-500 µg/L all summer. The Sept. 17, 2024 in Wainscott Pond was 485.5 µg/L. The Southern part of Fort Pond in Montauk also resulted in above threshold concentration of 33.5 µg/L. Aldred questioned whether the samples were going to continue or if it would stop as the weather has begun to shift.

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

#### ***Accabonac/Hog Creek:***

Patrice Dalton updated the board with regard to the Old Stone Hwy Culvert Project. The Trustees issued a permit for the project in November 2023. The project has not started but a contractor has been identified. Once the

contract has been signed, the project timeline will be issued five days from signing. Dalton shared they are requesting a one-year extension to the permit. The clerk clarified that the applicant has not provided the board a request yet. Dalton confirmed such and explained she will inform them to do so. The board seemed to favor extending the permit.

***Harbor Management:***

Jim Grimes updated the board regarding a request from Clear Water Beach Property Owner’s Association (CWBPOA) to renew their dredging permit. The association has requested to renew their permit. Grimes shared that their sand stockpile is now gone and they would like to exercise their right to stockpile 500 yards of sand from the dredged sand as outlined in their permit. Grimes explained that the only change to their request is that they are only dredging the clearwater side of the channel as opposed to both sides. John Aldred questioned whether the board would require a new and complete application or if a letter requesting the renewal will be sufficient. The board agreed the letter request was sufficient this time around. Jim grimes made a motion to approve the request. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Chris Carillo offered that since this is an administrative change, he acknowledged that the applicant had requested a few minor changes and to be sure the language was included in the permit and file.

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

**Payment of bills:** The following bills need to be paid: East Hampton Marina - \$81.40 for fuel, \$259.29 for oil change; Montauk Anglers Club - \$591.34 for oil change; Riverhead Building Supply – 21.60; Down East Services LLC - \$160 for process server. There was a brief discussion regarding the difference in rates charged between marinas in Three Mile Harbor and Lake Montauk. David Cataletto made a motion to pay the bills. Celia Josephson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** The minutes of August 26, 2024 were available for review. David Cataletto read the minutes and felt they were sufficient. David Cataletto made a motion to approve minutes. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Financials:** the clerk asked if anyone has reviewed the financials. Patrice Dalton reviewed the minutes and made a motion to approve the minutes. John Aldred seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

David Cataletto reminded the board that the Largest Clam Contest will be on Sunday. The board members should arrive on site a (at) 8 am and he’ll have jobs to assign to everyone.

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

**The meeting closed at 8:13 p.m.**