



MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 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
Patrice Dalton
Ben Dollinger
Celia Josephson

Absent: Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk
David Cataletto
Tim Garneau
Chris Carillo, Trustee General Counsel

Present: Alyson Follenius, Trustee Secretary
Arlene Tesar, Trustee Secretary

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 David Cataletto, Tim Garneau and Jim Grimes.

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

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

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:

Francis Bock revisited the matter of the USGS buoy in Georgica Pond. The buoy has been installed and measures the water level in the pond. Currently the cost of the buoy is split between the East Hampton Village, Friends of Georgica Pond and the USGS. If the Trustees join the partnership, the total cost for each partner excluding the USGS would be \$45,307 with the Trustees contribution being about \$15,000. The board briefly discussed whether the East Hampton Town could be asked to contribute as well. The board also discussed the benefit of having the buoy. Bill Taylor shared that the data are useful and used to inform the board when the pond is open and closed. Bill Taylor made a motion to join the cooperative and contribute approximately \$15,000 over four years. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Francis Bock brought up the matter of the Sag Harbor Water Quality Initiative and the North Haven Water Quality Initiative. John Aldred gave a brief explanation of the agreements. Francis Bock read the 2024 Sag Harbor Water Quality Initiative aloud and it was shared on the screen. John Aldred made a motion to accept the agreement. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Bock read the 2024 North Haven Water Quality Initiative Agreement aloud and it was shared on screen. John Aldred made a motion to approve the agreement. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. There was a brief discussion regarding reviewing the proposals again for both locations. John Aldred mentioned he is curious where the sampling sites would be and, given that both Southampton Trustees and Town contribute to the cost of sampling on the Southampton side of Sag Harbor, which takes place in Trustee waters there, he wondered if there was the possibility of East Hampton Town, in addition to the Trustees, contributing to the initiative on the East Hampton side of Sag Harbor.

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

Accabonac Harbor

There was a request from Keith Grimes, Inc on behalf of 91 Water's Edge to renew Trustee Permit A-3-23 for bulkhead reconstruction. Bill Taylor made a motion to approve the request. Ben Dollinger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Patrice Dalton brought up the matter of the Accabonac Harbor. There are no channel markers because the bottom shifts frequently. Baymen navigate the channel using their local knowledge, but other users may not have the same knowledge. There is some concern among users that there may be a conflict between the user groups in the future. There was a conversation several years ago with the county about dredging the channel all of the way to the launch ramp. Kim Shaw, of the Town Natural Resources Department, had recently reached out to the county for an update but has not yet heard back. Baymen have observed that when the wind is blowing from the Northeast, sand accumulates in the channel. Bill Taylor acknowledged that is the reason the Trustees remove the tip/end of Louse Point during their dredging projects at that location. Taylor added that getting buoys in place must involve the Coast Guard. Additionally, Taylor added that the county has not dredged to the launching ramp because they see the sediment as non-beach compatible and that is the reason the Trustees have had Dr. Gobler test the sediment because the Trustees want the county to dredge to the launch ramp. The discussion included researching what actual work the current County dredging permit allows. The clerk explained a permit modification would likely be needed. Aldred added that they may be working off a 10-year permit. Aldred questioned what was being asked of the Trustees. Dalton confirmed that the Trustees are essentially be asked for a status update regarding the dredging. There was further discussion regarding following up with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to get an update. Several board members thought the county planned to dredge it in the spring. Dalton confirmed Kim Shaw of the town Natural Resources Department did not know when it is scheduled to be dredged. There was conversation about the buoy that used to be in the channel which said, "no swimming" as it is no longer present. The conversation continued and touched on: the county procedures for completing additional dredging when the county does not have the funding for a specific requested project; the Trustees providing the county with Dr. Gobler's findings on the sediment composition analysis to support dredging to the launch ramp in Accabonac Harbor; and the similarities pertaining to dredging criteria in Northwest Creek. The Trustees will provide Kim Shaw of Natural Resources Department and Suffolk County DPW with Dr. Gobler's report containing the sediment analysis.

Northwest

John Aldred provided the board with information regarding a call received by the office from a DEC employee alerting the board that a sign in the area near Trustee Road was vandalized. The sign is a county sign. There was a brief conversation regarding the history of how the sign came to be. Aldred brought up the matter of ownership of the beach in the area. There is a Trustee owned beach adjacent to the private lot and Suffolk County owned section of beach at the end of the road.

Aldred asked whether the board should put up some signage so that the Trustees are represented as a party with ownership interest in the area. The board briefly discussed the matter, what a sign could read, and where the access to the Trustee beach is located and history of the area.

Blue-Green Algae

John Aldred provided an update on blue green algae counts. The recent count in Wainscott Pond was 454 µg/L. Francis Bock asked if the cooler temperatures should be slowing the bloom. Aldred explained that historically there seems to be a summer and a winter bloom. The conversation transitioned to the lack of rain recently, potential for brush fires and then briefly to the village work on Town Pond.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: The following bills need to be paid: Montauk Anglers Club - \$1,943.76 (winterization and repairs); Johnny Vela - \$1,400 (shrink wrap 2 pump out boats); Nawrocki Smith – \$9,000 (annual Trustee audit). John Aldred made a motion to pay the bills. Patrice Dalton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Other:

Patrice Dalton shared that the PEP is having their joint policy and management committee meeting on Wednesday, 10 am– 12 pm at Suffolk County Community College in Riverhead.

John Aldred reminded the public that the Kayaks must be removed from the racks by Nov. 15th and that kayaks not removed may be subject to impound and a \$250 fine.

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

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m.