



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
David Cataletto
Patrice Dalton (via Zoom)
Ben Dollinger
Tim Garneau
Celia Josephson

Absent: Jim Grimes, Deputy Clerk

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 a roll call. All Trustees were present at roll call except Jim Grimes.

The Clerk transitioned to the Public Comment:

John Aldred introduced Michael Frisk and Matthew Scalfani, Principal Investigators of the “telemetry study” performed by Cornell Cooperative Extension. The study was commissioned by the Trustees to determine any potential impact of the cable for the South Fork Wind landing on the beach in Wainscott, NY as part of the construction of wind farms. Frisk provided a synopsis of the methodology which included tagging fish species and their movement patterns in a designated study array for the 18 months prior to the cable being turned on. Plots of several species’ movement patterns through the array were shown on screen. Frisk mentioned that if the fish were impacted by the cable, the plot would show patterns moving toward the cable or moving away from the cable. The team has been able to mark the position of each individual fish within 0.7m. (HPem). Frisk noted the team lost 5 receivers within the system. However, the team found the tags were able to be picked up by a nearby receiver. The team received lost receivers found by commercial fishermen. The team’s preliminary conclusions suggest that the FSPS arrays can effectively monitor fine-scale behaviors for a diversity of marine fishes down to less than 1m resolution; If the EMF or other activities impact fish behaviors the system likely will have the ability

to detect the changes; receiver loss remains a challenge and reduces array performances. Finally, the team has had a paper accepted to a scientific journal regarding this study.

John Aldred asked Frisk to clarify that this study was set to be a 5-year study and will set to conclude in 2025. Frisk confirmed such. Aldred also asked whether Frisk felt the delay in originally obtaining the receivers would impact the data outcomes. Aldred also asked whether there has been any challenge with whales in the area taking out receivers. Frisk confirmed it has not been an issue. Aldred also asked whether cetaceans had been tagged as part of the study. Frisk and the team noted that tags on cetaceans are satellite tags and due to the nature of the tags it would not be able to pinpoint their positioning in this area. Patrice Dalton revisited the matter of the delayed start to the study and questioned whether, given the delay, the team could backfill the dataset and whether a shortened, four-year study would be scientifically sound enough. Frisk confirmed the only thing to do would be to extend the study into another year. Aldred explained that data could not be backfilled, that the study was designed with the belief that one to one and a half years before the cable was turned on would be sufficient time to establish a baseline of behavior. Aldred additionally added that the cable has since been turned on and the investigators would not be able to go back. Frisk and Scalfani reiterated the same. Frisk added that they have tagged Striped Bass with acceleration and deceleration tags and that those tags provide a depth profile.

Aldred and Dalton felt that if the team could get the time series, it would help to strengthen the data analysis. Trustee Chris Carillo asked, as an avid fisherman, how and where the fish were caught and released. Frisk shared that the team uses hook and rod method to catch most of the fish, each fish is caught, tagged and released in the same location. The team catches the fish anywhere from Moriches Bay to Montauk. Carillo also asked what the receivers were and what they looked like. Frisk explained the structure of the receiver. Carillo questioned where several of the lost receivers were located and what could have caused four of them to be a similar distance offshore. Frisk confirmed that there is a pattern for the lost receivers, and it has to do with the direction of the sweep. This led to a brief discussion around what kind of fishermen picked up/ caught the receivers. Frisk confirmed it was squid fishermen.

Scott Curatolo-Wagerman, also from CCE, presented a summary of the South Fork Wind Trawl Survey Annual Review. The Trawl survey was designed to gather baseline data, of valuable near shore fish migratory patterns. The data has been collected for six seasons. Curatolo-Wagerman provided a summary of the studies methodology which involves the use of the commercial fishing partner F/V Bulldog. Curatolo-Wagerman provided an overview of the number of tows in 2023 through the “impact zone. Aldred asked about the delayed start and contract final tow. The last trawl of 2025 is planned for the Fall survey. Because there was not a Fall and Spring Trawl of 2021, essentially there would be funds available for additional trawls, if Orsted was amendable to the extension. Patrice Dalton asked if the study was looking at the numbers pre-and-post cable or year over year. It was confirmed it would be pre-and-post the cable being active and that there would be some level of difference each year. Frisk confirmed that their group will not be pulling the receivers until the end of the study and would likely be requesting to extend the study. David Cataletto clarified the study was also looking into the differences between the impact zone east of beach lane compared to west of beach lane. Curatolo-Wagerman confirmed that Orsted would be amendable to a no cost extension for the additional six months to allow for data analysis. The board asked a few additional questions which Curatolo-Wagerman answered. The board thanked everyone for the presentations.

Christopher Kohan, of the Victor D’Amico Institute of Art, addressed the board regarding the D’Amico house restoration. Kohan provided a summary of the history of the Institute and the Art Barge, which included the

residency of artist Arthur Brooks. Kohan addressed the board to request that they partner in the restoration of the house. There is a possibility of matching grants. Several pictures of the exterior of the house were shown.

The Clerk transitioned to New Business:

Francis Bock mentioned the board received a request from Inter-Science to use the Trustee Beach to access the existing revetment to perform test excavations on the revetment fronting on 201 Lily Pond Rd on Oct. 29, 2024. David Cataletto made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Celia Josephson, and it was unanimously approved.

Francis Bock shared with the board that the USGS buoy in Georgica Pond is currently being paid by USGS (25%) and 75% split between the Village of East Hampton and the Friends of Georgica Pond. The Village has recently approached Bock to request the Trustees contribute to the project moving forward. The proposal is for each participant to contribute 25% of approximately \$50,000 over four years. There were several questions from the board regarding who originally requested the buoy, what parameters the buoy measures and whether there may be another option. The buoy currently measures the pond water levels. Bock confirmed there will be additional information coming. Patrice Dalton mentioned that further down the agenda is the PEP Mini grants and felt this would be a good project.

Kim Shaw of the Town's Natural Resources Department requested the Trustees extend the length of employment of the intern, Emily Klein, for an additional three weeks. After which time Klein will be hired by the Natural Resources Department. Patrice Dalton made a motion to extend the length of Klein's appointment. David Cataletto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

John Aldred updated the board regarding a request to use CPF Water quality Grand funds to purchase a continuous monitoring system for the pump out holding tanks. The new tank has a level monitor which sets off an alarm when the tank is full. The tanks have overflowed on more than one occasion

The Clerk transitioned to Committee Reports:

The Board discussed the Largest Clam Contest. It was well attended and a big success.

The Clerk transitioned to Old Business:

Patrice Dalton revisited the matter of the Old Stone Highway Culvert Replacement, being done by the Town of East Hampton. Dalton updated the board on the project status during the last meeting of Sept. 23, 2024. Melissa Winslow sent a letter requesting an extension of Trustee Permit A-2-23 for one year. Dalton read the request aloud. Patrice Dalton made a motion to approve the request to extend permit A-2-23 for one year. David Cataletto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. John Aldred asked for clarification that this is a request to extend an existing permit. Dalton and Francis Bock confirmed that it was.

The Clerk transitioned back to Committee Reports:

PEP:

Patrice Dalton updated the board regarding the PEP Mini Grants. There was a brief discussion regarding the board applying to cover the cost of the USGS buoy in Georgica and whether the pond is part of the Peconic Estuary.

Patrice Dalton will reach out to Joyce Novack of PEP to confirm whether Georgica Pond is part of the Peconic Estuary.

Aquaculture:

John Aldred updated the board that the DEC has updated the shellfish classification of Napeague Harbor. The recent update has reopened the north corner of the harbor which had been closed just prior to the summer season.

Francis Bock shared that the board received a letter from the DEC asking if there are any waterbodies in the Town that are presently closed to Shell fishing that the Trustees believe should be reopened to Shell Fishing? John Aldred shared how the board had participated a while back in opening a closed area to Shell Fishing, but that the procedure and water samples needed to be provided to the DEC was difficult and that when he finally got the area opened, no one was interested in Shell Fishing there. If the Board is interested in doing a study to reopen a specific area, the Board has until Nov. 8, 2024, to make suggestions. John Aldred invited the public to contact the Trustees if there are any areas the public would like to see open.

John Aldred provided an update on recent blue green algae sample results. On Sept. 23, 2024, Pond Lane 158 micrograms/L. Sept. 25, 2024, Wainscott 555 micrograms/L. then Oct. 9th 620 micrograms/L. Pond Lane pond tested 10/18. Pond Lane pond has seen a low of 32 and a high of 57 micrograms/L and has been in the range of 50-90 micrograms/L. Wainscott Pond has spanned from 4-600 micrograms/L all season. There was a question as to whether the numbers should be decreasing now that the weather has changed. Aldred explained that the original reason the board began testing the ponds was because of a complaint from a resident made during the winter.

The Clerk transitioned to the administrative portion of the meeting:

Payment of bills: Hodgson Russ, LLP - \$61,655.45 (legal services); Lewis Johns Avallone Aviles LLP - \$2,282.50 (legal services); East Hampton Marina - \$160.00 (fuel); East Hampton Marina - \$1,450.57 (fuel) & \$285 (fuel); Montauk Marine Basin - \$449.99 (fuel & cleaning supplies); East Hampton Star - \$552.51 (legal notice & thank you ad for the Largest Clam Contest participants); East Hampton Business Service - \$96.50 (Clam contest thank you poster); DB Bennett, P.E. P.C. - \$370.00 (Engineering services); Riverhead Building Supplies - \$53.33 (pump out supplies); Intact Insurance - \$4,850.00 (Boat Hull Policy). John Aldred made a motion to pay the bills. David Cataletto seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of March 25, 2024, September 9 and September 23, 2024, are available for review. John Aldred made a motion to accept all three sets of minutes. Celia Josephson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

David Cataletto shared that he and John Aldred will be driving the Trustee truck and boat in the Homecoming Parade tomorrow with the middle school students.

Tim Garneau made a motion to close the meeting. Celia Josephson seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting closed at 8:32 p.m.