

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

7:00 PM

TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM #201 AND VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Jack Solomon, Chairman Chuck Yenker, John Purple, Victor Rodriguez (arrived at 7:15 P.M.), Marty Podskoch, Cheryl Lobo and Wes Jenks with Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall.

Absent: Nico Guerrero

Call to Order: Chairman Yenker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in the 2nd floor meeting room and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Approvals:

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting: July 14, 2022:** *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve of the July 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Public Remarks: Mike Cubelli, of 19 O'Neill Lane, talked about the infestation of coon tails on the lake shore. They are a very invasive plant and they get tangled in the props and motors of boats. Boats aid in spreading the plants to the other areas of the lake. He wanted to express his concern over the plants and get a resolution to remedy the problem.

Bill Murphy, of 13 O'Neill Lane, also wanted to express his concerns for the coon tails on the lake shore. Mr. Murphy also stated when the blue green algae blooms occurred, it mixed with the plants. This made it harder to treat, resolve, and prevent the algae from blooming again in the area. Some areas with the coon tails remain stagnant. He suggested finding ways to get the water moving to prevent the plants from growing.

Communication and Liaison Reports: The O'Neill property proposals came back with two possible options. The first option would be to dredge the weeds at the bottom in the populated areas. For a hydraulic dredge to perform the dredging would be \$4,000. This option would need to be done every year; meaning the cost would have to be figured into the budget each year. There is also no guarantee the plants won't come back after the dredging each year. The second

option would be to use a big hydraulic dredging machine that takes 2-4 feet of the soil and plants out of the water. This would cost \$45,000 to completely dredge the area needed. This option also has no guarantee the plants won't come back as well. The area identified that would make the most difference with dredging would be by a man made cove on private property. This option could be a more permanent fix. The members will be able to review and think about each option since the proposals were emailed to the commission. Mr. DeCarli and Mr. Hall has been working on the Hawthorne Road project and Sear's Park project on reclaiming sand. A project for the Happy Paddler is waiting for the members to approve. The project is included with the new group of projects the commission will be involved with. The Happy Paddler project will cost about \$15,000. There is \$270,000 in the capital reserve for projects around the lake and watershed. The lake draw down should start at the beginning of winter to give the residents and others the time to perform projects in the lake area and on their sea walls if needed.

Presentations: None

Plan Reviews: None

Watershed Project(s)/Federal Funding Update: The 319 grant and capital water shed projects have been closed out. There have been six more projects identified and drafted proposals are ready to be sent out. The new six projects will be discussed and possibly approved at the Tuesday Town Council meeting. A meeting on Monday will be held to discuss the two remaining projects #7 and #8 of the new projects.

Old Business

a. Sub-Committee Report on Education/Lake Smart Program Sub-Committee

Update: The members discussed hosting an educational meeting with the public with different speakers about topics pertaining to the lake and the Lake Smart Program. The members decided to put off the meeting for the end of October instead of the end of September. This will give the members time to set up the different speakers and spread the information to the public to gain attendance. It will be held at the High School with a tentative date set for October 27th. There have been two awards handed out and another evaluation for a property being performed soon. Articles about the Lake Smart Program and the awarded residents will be drafted and submitted to the Rivereast. This will hopefully spread awareness and inspire others to investigate and become Lake Smart on their properties.

b. Advisory Panel Update: No meeting has been held yet but one will be scheduled for 2 weeks away. The town went forward with the bio blast and copper sulfate treatments on the lake.

New Business

a. Discussion of Winter Drawdown Level for the Lake: The members discussed the drawdown of the lake for this year. They wondered if drawing down to 36 inches like last year would be beneficial. That much of a drawdown helped the lake front residents perform work on their properties and their seawalls during that time. It was suggested to ask the lake professionals how far down to draw the lake this year. It was suggested to the commission to perform a severe drawdown every three years while only a smaller drawdown during the other two years. *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded*

by Mr. Solomon, to draw the lake down to 28 inches and to start the drawdown on October 15th and have the lake at the drawdown level by Thanksgiving. Voted 7-0 in favor.

- b. Discussion of Cranberry Bog:** Kevin Kiley, the owner of the Cranberry Bog, wanted to express his concerns over the amount of lily pads in the bog to the commission members. He started off by explaining the history of the bog and sharing some insights into the bog. He wants to find a solution for the lily pads. The members discussed possible options in removing the plants from the bog. Some suggestions were to excavate the lily pads, find some chemical treatment that could kill off the plants, and another was to have Steve Trinkus investigate the appearance of the plants. Mr. Trinkus could possibly find a solution for ridding the plants in the bog. The members discussed chemical treatments that would kill off the plants but not harm the fish residing in the pond. Mr. Kiley isn't looking or asking for money from the town or the commission. He is just seeking some help and guidance for a resolution to the lily pad problem.

Public Remarks: None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M. Voted 7-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk