

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY JANUARY 12, 2017
7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

Present: Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Bob Hart, Tom O'Brien, John Roche, Martin Podskoch, Irene Curtis, Wes Jenks and Jeremy Hall, Director of Parks & Recreation

Absent: Alternate Member Spencer Killian

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:00 p.m.

Seating of Alternates: None

Approvals:

Minutes of Regular Meeting: December 8, 2016 - *A motion was made by Mr. Roche, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016 meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0, with Ms. Curtis abstaining.*

Communications and Liaison Reports: Mr. Hall reported that there is \$120,000 in the capital fund for water quality infrastructure improvements. This is to be used toward implementation of the 9 Point Watershed Plan, and can be rolled over year to year. It is now going to be used for engineering costs for the catch basins on Clark Hill Road.

Jeremy DeCarli, Planning & Zoning Official has requested to be on the agenda of the February 2017 meeting to discuss a Lake Smart program that has been implemented in Maine and the possibility of implementing it here.

Public Remarks:

Kevin Kuhr, P&Z Liaison, asked why Public Works is spraying dirt around the lake vs. salt (for icy road conditions). Mr. Hall noted that they have been using less salt near the lake for the past two years because of runoff from the roads; the sand-based treatment is healthier for the lake. Mr. Kuhr asked if the catch basin cleaning had been stepped up to which the answer was that PW cleans the catch basins once a year.

Plan Review:

109 Clark Hill Road – Re-Subdivision: Pat Benjamin, Civil Engineer with Baskin & Benjamin, was present to represent the owners of this property, who wish to re-subdivide four lots into seven. Lot 4 is a 71 acre lot that would be subdivided into three additional lots. There are proposed conservation easements on each lot totaling 18.29 acres, or 25.85 % of the property. This property is outside the lake watershed area, though it affects Hales Pond, Pine Brook, and the Green River.

There were questions and discussion about how much of the conservation area is wetlands; with Chairman Zawisza stating that the Commission likes to see an equal proportion wet to dry land in the conservation area.

There was a question about a portion of the land on Lot 6, which is in the corner of the lot, cut off from the rest of the lot by the wetlands/conservation easement. Mr. Benjamin stated that the owner proposes that this would be good pasturing land. There was questioning on how that part of the lot would be accessed as the wetlands and conservation easement would need to be accessed and crossed. Mr. Benjamin stated there is access from an existing logging road. Discussion occurred on whether pasturing is considered passive or active recreation, which is typical use for a conservation easement. Mr. Benjamin will look into this further and come back to the commission next month.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Ms. Curtis, to table this application until the next regular meeting. Voted 7-0 in favor.

Sears Park Boat Launch: Mr. Hall explained that they plan to replace the existing concrete boat launch because of disrepair. They will de-water an area of about 50' x 20' to get the project done. The existing concrete will be removed and replaced with (28) 10' long concrete slabs. Controls in place will include sand bags, a pump system, and hay bales. They would like to do this project within the next year during the off-season. The estimated cost is about \$25,000 and is in the boat launch repair fund.

Mr. Jenks asked about removing a large rock that is close to the boat launch while they have the area de-watered; Mr. Hall stated that he will look into this possibility. Suggestions for accomplishing this were discussed.

A motion was made by Mr. Carbonell; seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to move forward with the plans to replace the boat ramp at Sears Park as presented. Voted 7-0 in favor.

Discussion: A question was asked about controlling oil and gas drippage during the replacement, it was stated that this will be addressed by the cofferdam.

00 East High Street – T&O Enterprises, new commercial building: Tony Flannery of T&O Enterprises and Belltown Motors was present to discuss the plan to build a new commercial building that will house Napa on Route 66 on the property between CVS and the current Napa location. The property has wetland that flows away from the lake. There is a swale that allows runoff from the building and the parking lot to flow into an existing gravel retention area behind the building, which will be expanded. There is no disturbance to the wetland with this proposed new building.

Mr. Flannery was asked about water that is believed to flow off his property across Rt. 66 to Paul's & Sandy's area, then to a home. Mr. Flannery stated this runoff from his property flows the other way, into the aforementioned retention area and none goes to Rt. 66.

A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, to accept the plan as presented. Voted 7-0 in favor.

Watershed Proposal Update and Advisory Panel Update: Mr. Carbonell and Chairman Zawisza reported that Chuck Lee at the State DEEP has said that the Federal EPA has approved the 9 Point plan. At the Advisory Panel meeting, NEAR was asked to submit the grant application for the Federal 319 money. Hillary Kenyon of NEAR reported that there is usually about \$300,000 nationally available and about half

of this goes to salaries, therefore leaving about \$70,000 - \$75,000 realistically available to us for a grant request. This would be for 2018. Also, NEAR was given permission to apply for a permit to apply copper sulfate in a measured form if it is deemed necessary due to algae conditions in the lake this year. The application will be in to the state in early January in order to be ready for this year because they have been taking a long time to get approved. The application fee is only about \$200 - \$300. There is question on how long the window is for the application to be open; it may be for three years. There was discussion on getting STEAP grant money for the lake as well.

Discussion occurred on the Commission's upcoming budget requests. Chairman Zawisza is waiting for an estimate from Dr. Knoecklein on his testing costs.

Mr. Jenks asked about the Christopher Brook project and noted that a citizen in town contacted him and mentioned that it looks problematic, with everything running directly into the lake. Anchor Engineering is overseeing this project, Mr. Hall stated that he will follow up with them on this question.

The upcoming projects to be done with the money in the capital fund to be used toward the lake were discussed. Previously identified had been the Clark Hill Road catch basins, with Mott Hill being a second project. All catch basins on Clark Hill will be deepened. This will need to have an engineering survey done first, and the Town Council has asked for a detailed list of what will be done before they agree. Mr. Hart noted that although Clark Hill is identified in the plan as a project to be done, it is not the highest priority. Hale and Christopher Brooks are identified before that project. Discussion on the possibilities of why Clark Hill was being done ahead of these other two occurred.

Mr. Jenks moved that the projects indicated as priorities by Dr. Knoecklein and his team should be done first. This motion was not seconded, and was amended after discussion on this topic. Questions were asked as to why the first and/or second tier of prioritized projects were not being worked on first. Also Mr. Jenks brought up spending the \$5,000- \$10,000 on an engineering study of Clark Hill as a third tier problem.

Mr. Jenks amended his motion to: *The Commission needs to speak with Dr. Knoecklein to identify priorities before allocating funds and making a decision; and it needs to be made clear why the town is not identifying the higher priorities on the plan. This was seconded by Mr. Podskoch. Motion carried with a vote of 5-2 in favor, with Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Carbonell voting against.*

Discussion: There was in-depth discussion of the motion, with Mr. Carbonell expressing the opinion that he would not want the Commission to be viewed as changing their plan (as had been previously discussed at the Advisory Panel Meeting). Mr. Hart noted that that is what they are doing if they do not attack the higher priority items first. There was discussion on the budget for the lake (to include engineering costs for each item) and what could possibly be done within it in the identified priority list.

Mr. Carbonell will ask Dr. Knoecklein to explain the rationale for going after the Clark Hill Rd. project first and report back to the Commission. Another discussion occurred on the catch basins on Clark Hill Rd. Discussion also occurred on the role of private property in the aforementioned tiers of priority, and possible projects that could be done on town property like Sears Park.

Old Business:

- a) **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** No report

New Business: Mr. Carbonell asked if the lake website has been worked on further or if the town website should be the focal point for the 9 Point Plan. Mr. Jenks noted that he has purchased www.lakepocotopaug.org but that he has not yet had the time to create the site, though he will do it when he can.

Ms. Curtis asked about sending out brochures as has been done in the past to watershed residents. Discussion occurred on postage and printing costs, and the possibility of using what is left in the current budget for this expense.

Public Remarks: Kevin Kuhr, P&Z Liaison stated that he thinks it's a great idea to try and move the large rock by the boat ramp at Sears Park while the area is being worked on. He also stated that maybe part of the reasoning for doing the project on Clark Hill Road first is that every part of a project would need an engineering study, which could be costly, whereas that is a larger project that will only need one engineering study. Also, an impressive amount of work has been done already at Sears Park such as the rain garden and pipes, the upcoming boat launch project, etc. He thinks if more work is done there it should be through the Town Council using the Park & Rec budget for that, not the money earmarked in Capital.

Mr. Hall noted that funds have been identified in the Park & Rec capital budget for future installation of pervious pavers in the Sears Park parking lot. Funds will be set aside each year, as these will cost \$70,000 - \$80,000 to install.

Mr. Kuhr stated that a lot can be done on private property, but there are easement issues, and people will be saying 'why did that project happen first on their property; what about mine?'. Clark Hill Road deposits sediment directly into the lake. He asked how much more money was left in the budget and noted that it will have to be used by June 30.

There was further discussion amongst the Commission about the identified projects and their quoted costs, it was noted that they were guesstimates, not actual quotes on costs.

Mr. Hart asked if anyone is attending the budget meeting on March 16 at 6:00 at the Middle School. It was noted that budget information needs to be in to Finance Director Jylkka by January 23. Further discussion occurred on bond issues. The budget discussion will be placed on the February meeting agenda.

Mr. Jenks suggested putting homes that have been doing work toward becoming Lake Smart in the next issue of the East Hampton Events Magazine. They could feature a home of the month as well.

Adjournment:

Mr. Podskoch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roche, at 9:05 p.m.. Motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary