

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION- LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020
7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Peter Zawisza, Vice Chairman Joe Carbonell, Martin Podskoch, Chuck Yenknor, John Purple, Wes Jenks, Anita Guerin, and Alternate Member John Roche with Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall and Public Works Director Matt Walsh.

Absent: None.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:02 p.m.

Seating of Alternates: John Roche wasn't seated.

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Purple, seconded by Ms. Guerin, to adopt the agenda. Voted 7-0 in favor.*

Approvals: *A motion was made by Ms. Guerin, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to approve of the February 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Voted 7-0 in favor.*

Communications and Liaison Reports: None right now.

Public Remarks: None

Plan Reviews:

- a) **35 West Point Road:** American Distilling is planning to remove the existing garage foundation to install a new foundation. The property is in the watershed; but the proposed work is not in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed but is in the Salmon River watershed. A swale would be installed to curb water and run it through pipes that lead to Salmon River under Route 66 in existing drains. The watershed starts at the tree line in the front of the property for Lake Pocotopaug.

Presentation of Projects in the Watershed- Public Works Director Matt Walsh: The Public Works Director Matt Walsh presented to the members. Milling and paving on Lake Drive will continue to Clark Hill and up Mott Hill. This makes up one watershed project. Public Works have been replacing catch basin tops, while adding asphalt patching after the tops have been installed, in the watershed area. The catch basins were cleaned at the end of 2019, but they are being cleaned again as they're being fixed. Filter fabric is being used during repairs to catch runoff and contaminates. Work for the project should be completed by Memorial Day weekend. Ideally the drains should be cleaned 2 times a year. The cleaning is contracted out. The cost of cleaning the drains in 2019 was \$22 per drain and in 2020 each drain costs \$25. More money will be placed in the budget as a line item to cover the cost of cleaning the drains. On Meeks Point the road will be milled down two inches and the road will be releveled to improve drainage

where slight flooding and puddles occur. The road will be excavated and regraded to eliminate puddling. This will ensure the water will travel down the catch basin system. There are 3 catch basins in the area that will be affected by the project. Once the drainage tops are all fixed; the regrading of Meeks Point will be the next project to be completed.

Watershed Project(s)/ Federal Funding Update: Some amendments have been made to the RFP for the project. On Friday, the RFP will be sent out to bid for the public. The Wangonk Trail easement went through, and the project should start soon. The Mott Hill project is going well; the plants were taken out from the side of the road. The approval of the Town Council is needed to start the project for April 11th. The Sear's Place property owner doesn't want to go through with the project. The Edgemere property isn't working with the water runoff during storms and heavy rain. The responsibility to build future projects and building projects to regulations should be the contractor and the engineer on the project. The town is working on easements for Jack Solomon's property and the land behind Paul and Sandy's. The educational session with Dr. George will be at the new Town Hall on April 22nd.

Old Business:

- a) **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** An educational session with Dr. George will be held at the new Town Hall on April 22nd.
- b) **Advisory Panel Update:** There was a brief meeting with Northeast Aquatics, the Town Manager, Jeremy DeCarli from Planning and Zoning, and Jeremy Hall the Director of Parks & Rec. There will be a fill out lease plan to Everblue Lakes. April 27th is the next meeting and will be held in the new Town Hall.
- c) **Lake Smart Program Sub-Committee Update:** The members discussed getting the property owners in the lake and watershed areas to be more Lake Smart. Medallions will be awarded to property owners who participated in the Lake Smart program. The criteria listing what a property owner needs to complete to be awarded the medallion was drafted and passed around to the members to review. It was suggested to make the criteria into brochures to mail out to the lake and watershed residents. The criteria could also be printed in the Events magazine and the Rivereast newspaper. Once a property owner has completed their projects; they can reach out to the commission to have a member inspect the projects finished. This is how the owner could be awarded with the medallion.
A motion was made by Mr. Yenknor to accept and move forward with the proposed criteria for the Lake Smart program. Voted 7-0 in favor.
- d) **Discussion of Lake Level/ Sub-Committee:** There was a meeting with the Bevins to discuss the lake level. An agreement was reached to use desired lake level chart for the future lake draws. There are some issues still being worked through. The dam should be closed since the lake is down 14 inches.

New Business: The members discussed the watershed signs that need to be installed around the lake. The last existing signs were installed. 25 signs were printed and installed around the lake and watershed areas. It was suggested to have watershed signs that could be installed above the street name signs. There was a certified letter for the upcoming solar field. The letter states that Citrine Solar intends to file a petition with Connecticut Siting Council for declaratory ruling that a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need would not be required for this project. The budget for the fiscal year has been submitted. The members discussed how the commission will be involved in the aeration project for the lake. This will be part of the

conversation and be brought up in the conversation. It was suggested to invite Everblue Lakes to the Dr. George educational session to talk about and explain the aeration system. There will be benchmarks built into the contract to show the progress of completion for the project. Dr. George will be monitoring the lake for the aeration system.

Public Remarks: Bob Yanker of Spellman Point- Mr. Yanker stated that American Distilling should be held accountable for their project in the watershed. The Chatham apartments owner would be interested in an easement. Mr. Yanker asked the members to have an updated list for the 319 grant. The contractors should be held responsible when mistakes arise with a project. Mr. Yanker asked the commission who will do the testing of the lake and who is most accurate. The testing issues will be addressed. He also asked the members who cleans the side of the roads in the town. He suggested to have the cops set up in the most littered areas to catch people littering.

Dave Bengston of 82 Spellman Point- Mr. Bengston asked the commission who controls the lake testing when the aeration system is complete and operational. He also asked who has the authority to close the lake and oversee the aeration testing results.

Kevin Reich of Arch Drive- Mr. Reich stated that the success of the aeration system should be discussed about first within the meeting. He also stated that the contractor for the Edgemere project did his job by what was handed to him. That is why the RFP for a project needs to be as specific as possible.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Yenknner, seconded by Mr. Purple, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. Voted 7-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk