

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION- LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020
7:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Peter Zawisza, Vice Chairman Joe Carbonell, Wes Jenks (left at 8:30PM), Chuck Yenknor (arrived at 7:04PM), John Purple, Martin Podskoch, Anita Guerin, with Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall, Town Manager David Cox, Jeremy DeCarli, Chatham Health Director Russ Melmed, and Hillary Kenyon Garavoy.

Absent: Alternate Member John Roche.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:01 p.m.

Seating of Alternates: None

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Carbonell, seconded by Ms. Guerin, to adopt the agenda with the addition of Hillary under item 10. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Approvals:

- a) *A motion was made by Chairman Zawisza, seconded by Mr. Yenknor, to approve of the May 14th, 2020 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Communications and Liaison Reports: The letter for the grant application for the Christopher Brook property needs to be approved. It is an Open Space and Land Acquisition grant with the state. There is a one mile stretch of the southern side of the property that will be protected under the grant. And the house on the property will be left with 2.5 acres of land.

A motion has been made by Mr. Jenks, seconded by Mr. Yenknor, to endorse the letter for the acquisition of the Christopher Brook property. Voted 7-0 in favor.

Public Remarks: None

Plan Reviews:

- a) **Edgewater Circle Market Square 2:** Steve Motto of Edge Water Hill Properties presented to the commission members. The plan is in front of Inland Wetlands currently, just waiting for approval. The project will be across the street next to the copper kettle building. The apartments will be passed the Town Hall building on that piece of land. The next phase of the project is being planned.

- b) **Edgewater Circle Resubdivision:** Steve Motto presented this plan review to the members as well. This will make the land its own piece of property. This will make it easier for the Town and Assessor to set up the citing and zoning for each property. The runoff from the properties parking and buildings would go into a retention pond. There needs to be more stonework on the sides of the access road for the Town Hall building to prevent most runoff. A catch basin for overflow from the two other retention ponds would be installed as well.
- c) **35 West Point Road – Planting Plan:** Jeremy DeCarli presented this plan to the members. American Distilling is working on getting an easement from the Chatham Apartments. The plan is to move the landscaping buffer onto the property line and behind the parking lot to give American Distilling more room for snow storage. The landscaping move has begun, but no trees have been touched. The brush and grass that was moved has left exposed dirt, but silt fencing was placed over the loose dirt. American Distilling is tearing down the existing garage to build a new one. The new garage is not on the watershed side of the property. The runoff from the garage roof will go into the storm drain. And there is a catch basin on the north side of the Chatham Apartments parking lot. The members want to table this plan so they can go to see it in person.

Budget Review: The budget was sent out to all the members to review. There are two invoices being processed from the budget. The remaining balance for the budget will be used by the end of the month. Any leftover money from the budget would go into a PO for phytoplankton testing and storm level testing in the lake. There will be additional money coming out for another round of mailing out the Lake Smart pamphlets to the watershed area residents. Allot money for the emblems to award to the Lake Smart homes when they reach the program goals. It was suggested to have signs in each location of a Lake Smart project. An example would be the rain garden at Sears Park. The sign, or plaque, would explain what the rain garden is and how it helps the environment. A quote on the signs will be available for the next meeting.

Watershed Project(s)/Federal Funding Update: The grant from DEEP was signed by the Town Manager and sent back. The town is moving forward on the grant projects. There will be two retention ponds at Sears Park. The swail is almost finished at Wangonk Road. Then the projects at Hawthorn and Skyline will be completed. The project at Seven Hills would be after the Sears Park project is finished. There are bid processes for four locations: Christopher Brook, Edger Water, Lake Vista, and Fon Brook. The aeration system is set to go on the Edgemere property. Eversource is waiting on an easement from the town, it should be ready for Monday. The Brookhaven property has the easement approved, but it still needs approval from Planning and Zoning. The permitting process for electrical will be started next week. The project will be finished within 2-3 weeks.

A motion was made by Mr. Jenks, seconded by Mr. Yenker, to have the commission recommend to the town, the Town Council, and the Town Manager to proceed with the biological treatment in conjunction with the aeration system as specified by Everblu's contract. Voted 1-4-2. (Ms. Guerin abstained with Chairman Zawisza and Mr. Carbonell voting against.)

Lake Testing Monitoring: The members discussed keeping track of the affects of the aeration system on the lake. Figure out a couple of key aspects of the lake to help monitor the affects, like water clarity. There will be monitoring in seven different spots in the lake after the aeration system has been turned on. Reports of the monitoring of the lake will be emailed to the

commission members each month. Hillary Kenyon Garavoy presented a power point about her findings from her mapping program for Lake Pocotopaug. She took mud core samplings from the bottom of the lake in different areas. She compared the samples she took recently to samples that were taken in 1990. This was a project for her degree in college. She shared her findings and conclusions of her project with the commission members.

Old Business:

- a) **Chatham Health Testing at Sears Park:** Russ Melmed, the Director of Chatham Health, spoke with the commission members. This summer they will start monitoring for green algae blooms at Sears Park. Since the observations will be taken visually, there will not be a need for weekly cell counts. Chatham Health will also be monitoring for scum or film on top of the water. If there is scum and/or film found the lake will be closed until deemed safe to reopen. It was suggested that a cell count should be taken to determine if the lake should reopen. The lake never had a toxic blue-green algae bloom; but if that happens people cannot be in the water.
- b) **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** The talks cannot be held until COVID-19 restrictions are lessened. Once the libraries are open and can hold a gathering, the talks can then begin. The brochure will be mailed out and an article in the newspaper will be about the Lake Smart Program.
- c) **Advisory Panel Update:** None, no meeting due to COVID-19.
- d) **Lake Smart Program Sub-Committee Update:** The commission should look into getting quotes for the medallions for the Lake Smart Program as awards. There will be samples for the members for the next meeting. *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. Carbonell, to accept the brochure and mail them out to the water shed community. Voted 6-0 in favor.*
- e) **Discussion of Lake Level/Sub-Committee:** The lake level was dropping quickly on Monday. The dam was fully open on Tuesday morning. The dam was then closed to just six inches open.

New Business: None

Public Remarks: None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. Purple, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 PM. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk