

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018
7:00 PM
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

Present: Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Wes Jenks, Martin Podskoch, Tom O'Brien, Danielle Holmes, Alternate Member Anita Guerin, and Jeremy Hall (Parks & Rec.)

Absent: John Roche

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

Seating of Alternates: Ms. Guerin was seated

Approvals:

- a) **Minutes of Regular Meeting: December 14, 2017** - *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting. Voted 5-0 (Mr. Jenks and Mr. Carbonell were not present during this vote.)*

Communications and Liaison Reports: None

Public Remarks: None

Plan Review: None

Watershed Project /Federal Funding Update: Mr. Hall stated that the contract for the grant still needs to be signed by Chuck Lee at the DEEP and the Town Manager; this will release the funds. Mr. Hall is having trouble connecting with Mr. Lee. Once it is signed the test holes for the Clark Hill project can be dug.

Ehren Meissenger has also been in communication with Mr. Lee regarding placing a floating island in Christopher Brook. If he gets approval from the DEEP, he may be asking to use some of the grant money toward the island.

Old Business:

- a) **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** No update
- b) **Advisory Panel Update:** No update; the meetings have concluded for the year and will start again in the spring unless something comes up in the meantime and it is necessary to meet.
- c) **Lake Smart Program – subcommittee formation:** Ms. Holmes stated that she has been in touch with Maggie Shannon of the Maine Lake Smart Program. Ms. Shannon has offered to come to a future meeting and discuss the program and what it entails, and possibly help with implementation at no cost. Discussion of what the Lake Smart Program involves as far as time

commitment and training occurred. Ms. Holmes suggested that the sub-committee meeting with Mr. DeCarli on a Tuesday evening to go over his preliminary plans for implementation. Mr. Podskoch, Chairman Zawisza, and Vice Chairman Carbonell stated they would also help on the sub-committee.

At this time Mr. Hall noted that the change to the upland review area was approved to 200' from any water line within the watershed. The change will be effective February 1. It was also noted that more members of the public will be applying for permits because of this change and at the time of application would be a good opportunity to hand them educational information about the lake and/or a Lake Smart program.

New Business:

- a) **2018-2019 Budget:** Mr. Hall distributed the current budget and discussion was held on line items within it. Mr. Hall suggested including money for engineering costs as related to watershed projects.

There was discussion on the 319 Federal funding, and expenditure of the money we are shortly to receive. The funds can be applied for again, but the Town will need to show that the money already given to us is being utilized for projects before re-application. There was discussion on which projects could be lined up as alternatives if the project at Clark Hill is not possible (which will be known once the test pits are completed.) Prospects include utilizing the donated land at Old Marlborough Road for runoff filtration, improvements at Sears Park, and beginning the process of gaining easements at private properties that have been identified within the 9 Point Plan. Chairman Zawisza will ask Dr. Knoecklein for a list of different items and his estimated associated costs.

Discussion occurred on the possibility of copper sulfate treatment for the lake this summer, as a permit for such has been granted. The decision lies with the Town Council, but funds will be requested in the CLC's budget to pay for the treatment(s). Funds for NEAR's contract were also added in.

Vice Chairman Carbonell moved to recommend that Dr. George Knoecklein and his company NEAR be retained by the Town as the sole source provider for limnology for Lake Pocotopaug. Mr. Podskoch seconded. Voted 7-0 in favor.
Discussion: This will be an annually reviewed item.

There was discussion on the possibility of installing some sort of water level measuring device at the dam and whether this could be included in the Federal grant money.

The final budgeting after discussion came in around \$57,000.

Chairman Zawisza moved and Mr. Podskoch seconded to approve the budget as discussed. Voted 7-0 in favor.

- b) **Other New Business:** Chairman Zawisza asked about plans for possible flooding that could occur this weekend; Mr. Hall was not aware of any plans in place, though Mr. DeCarli may have

some. There was discussion on making a plan for flooding and submitting it to the Town for review.

April 21 will be the lake clean up day.

July 12 – 14 will be Old Home Days. Vice Chairman Carbonell will reserve a booth for the Commission, which will be next to the Friends of the Lake.

The bids for the project at Edgemere are due next week; the hope is that this project will be started in the spring.

Hillary at NEAR put out a paper on invasive plant species and there is fear that a certain variety is migrating closer to Lake Pocotopaug. There was discussion on training for volunteers and Sears Park staff to become invasive plant species investigators; this is a free training offered through DEEP. There was discussion on enforcement at Sears Park and putting an educational piece about invasive species in the EH Events Magazine. There was also a suggestion that a pamphlet on invasive plants could be given out when people obtain their boat passes.

Ms. Holmes has been contacted by the pair of divers that reside on the lake that attended CLC meetings a few months ago. They are researching planting native species in the lake themselves, along with other volunteers, and are looking for direction on how to move forward. This was discussed at length and it was suggested that Dr. Knoecklein be contacted for a list of acceptable native species. Mr. Lee at DEEP should also be consulted. A plan can be presented to the CLC by the divers.

Ms. Guerin asked for a discussion on the dam at the next meeting. This will be added to the agenda.

Public Remarks: The member of the public that was present stated that the meeting was very interesting and she appreciated the remarks about the invasive plant species. This led to further discussion on invasive species.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary