

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 11th, 2024

7:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Chuck Yenknor, Wes Jenks, Cheryl Lobo, Victor Rodriguez (arrived 7:45 P.M.), Jason Hartling, Marty Podskoch, and Derek Johnson.

Absent: John Purple.

Call to Order: Chairman Yenknor called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. at the Town Hall in the 2nd floor meeting room and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda: *A motion was made by Mr. Hartling, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the agenda with no changes. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Approvals

- a. Minutes of Regular Meeting: March 14, 2024:** *A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hartling, to approve of the March 14th, 2024 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Public Remarks: None

Communications and Liaison Reports: Mr. Podskoch performed an evaluation the previous day at 2 Candlewood. There was a stream right behind the house on the property. The homeowner is working to keep the bank of the stream held up. There will be another evaluation performed on Monday at noon. Two boat washing signs were dropped off at the Friends of the Lake association to be installed. The Town Council made two motions at their current meeting. The council members made a motion to enact a one-year moratorium on commercial developments within the watershed or lake area. The Town Council Chairman Dean Markham drafted a letter to Planning & Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency about the moratorium. The commission members discussed the moratorium and the motion made by the Town Council. The members need to decide and agree as a group on the issues. The letter drafted by Mr. Markham was reviewed and the members found that the wording wasn't matching up to the wording of the moratorium. It was suggested to have the letter revised and clarified so it would match the motion made. There was discussion of different ways of dealing with developments impacting the watershed and the lake. One option would be to amend the regulations or draft an ordinance for more sediment erosion controls. The town is trying to schedule a meeting with the Town Council, Conservation Lake Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency to discuss the moratorium and construction and developments in town. It was brought up that there are CT

guidelines for sediment erosion controls on the state website that would be helpful for the issue of construction and developments in the watershed and lake area. The members briefly discussed the town application fees and whether they would cover the cost of vetting the development project being submitted to the town. It was suggested to draft a letter of support from the commission and send it to the proper places once it's been finalized. It should state the requirements of developing and constructing in the watershed and express support of the moratorium. The members discussed effective enforcement and implementing fines for new constructions and developments in the watershed. *A motion was made by Mr. Hartling, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve of Chairman Yenknner drafting a letter of support for the moratorium. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Presentation: None

Plan Reviews

- a. **11 Pine Trail – Re-pave Driveway & Construct Swale:** James Aldrich and Bob Grillo attended the meeting via zoom to present and answer questions from the members. The applicant would like to replace the existing driveway with a new driveway within the same location and area. The applicant provided a site map and photos of the current driveway for the members to review during the presentation. The driveway is planned to remain at 300 feet. The grade of the driveway would become more gradual instead of keeping it steep. This would help to ease backing down and make it so the car wouldn't bottom out when driving along. The driveway would also be re-pitched to divert the run-off and water in another direction. The applicant also wants to construct a swale to allow the water and run-off to flow into the culvert pipe. It was suggested to add plantings to the sides of the driveway to help prevent erosion in the area. The members discussed performing a site walk to see the driveway in person and get a better understanding of the situation. It was decided to have the site walk on Monday at 9am. *A motion was made by Mr. Hartling, seconded by Ms. Lobo, to approve of the plan review subject to modifications or changes after the site walk has been performed by the members who volunteered. Voted 7-0 in favor.*

Watershed Project(s)/Federal Funding Update/AIS Funding: No update at this time.

Budget Update: No update at this time.

Old Business

- a. **Sub-Committee Report on Education/Lake Smart Program Sub-Committee Update:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- b. **Advisory Panel Update:** No update.
- c. **Boat Cleaning Stations:** The members discussed boat cleaning stations at Sear's Park. There are three options for cleaning off watercraft vehicles. The options would be a hot water power washer, a cold water power washer, and a compressed air cleaner that uses no water. The compressed air cleaners comes in a couple different models and ranges in price. One model is solar powered and costs \$40,000. There was discussion of having the residents enter the parking lot and pulling to the side to be inspected and cleaned off if need be. All watercrafts need to be inspected and cleaned off, not just boats. There was discussion of educating the community about the invasive plants in the lake and how to properly clean their watercrafts to prevent spreading invasive plants into the lake. The members suggested posting the informational boat washing signs in opportune places

around town and by the lake. The members also briefly discussed having more volunteers or workers checking boats at Sear's Park before entering the lake.

New Business

- a. Discussion of Run-off into the Lake from Development Construction in the Watershed:** This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- b. Sustainable CT:** Sustainable CT is a company that offers to be a resource to towns for clean energy programs. There would be no cost to the town to join or to participate in their programs. The organization would be a great opportunity for the town to join. Over half of the state has joined Sustainable CT. *A motion was made by Ms. Lobo, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to recommend the commission express their support of East Hampton joining Sustainable CT to the Town Council. Voted 6-0-1 with Mr. Hartling abstaining.*

Public Remarks: Jean Peterman, of 11 Hawthorn, expressed her concern about where the pipe goes from the plan review earlier in the meeting. The pipe runs across the driveway underground, but doesn't know where it drains.

Jason Gokey, of 27 Lakewood Road, wanted to discuss the logging of a property within the watershed. Mr. Gokey pointed out that the permit for logging the land was just handed over to the applicant when it shouldn't have been issued in the first place. There are a lot of endangered species in the area of the logging. The applicant has not stopped logging the land even after receiving the cease and desist letter was sent. He contacted a DEP official about the endangered species in the area. Mr. Gokey also stated that if the applicant wanted to put roads leading to the property; he would need to blast since there is ledge in the area. The applicant would also need to do the same if he intended to have a basement. The blasting could affect and cause problems for the resident's wells living in that area. Jason stated that DEP and Aquarian would both need to be contacted about the issues. He provided two names to contact about the problems.

Dave Selger stated that the NDBB database is online for everyone to review.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Chairman Yenknier to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk