

East Hampton Planning & Zoning Commission

Updates to Sec.3.1 Lake Pocotopaug Protection Zone

Workshop Minutes

Date: September 10, 2019

Location: East Hampton Library Community Room, 105 Main Street

Time: 6:30pm

Present: Chairman Kuhr, Meg Wright, Jim Sennett, Angelus Tamaro and Michael Kowalczyk

Discussion: Updates to Sec.3.1 Lake Pocotopaug Protection Zone –

Chairman Kuhr started the workshop at 6:30 p.m. He explained that this workshop is one of many and that the goal is to deter water run off before it gets into the lake. Copies of the proposed regulations were handed out with the request for feedback and suggestions.

Mr. DeCarli did a presentation regarding the need to protect the watershed zone for the long term health of the lake, discussed best management practices for achieving that goal and provided a brief overview of the proposed updates. Chairman Kuhr asked for public comments at this time. Dorene Nablo of 43 Bay Road suggested changing the placement of the vegetative buffers. Judy Isele of 31 Lake Dr. stated that the vegetative buffers should apply to all surrounding properties and not just to homes on the lake. She added that there should be enforcement of the regulations as well. Jim DiCaprio of 116 Lake Dr. felt that 25' was too much and suggested the possibility of some type of tax incentive to encourage best management practices. Wes Jenks of 45 Meeks Point Rd. suggested having this regulation apply to municipal projects and road projects and a regulation to force landowners to correct a problem on their property that may be causing harm to a watercourse. Chairman Kuhr asked Mr. DeCarli to clarify the 200' buffer that is in the Inland Wetland regulation. Mr. DeCarli explained that the upland review area was increased to 200' within the watershed with the intention of ensuring that best management procedures are being practiced to protect the lake. A brief discussion followed about homeowners on the lake having stricter restrictions and that the restrictions should be shared by all. George Worrall of 51 Wangonk Trail suggested requiring buffers for storm drains in the watershed and to prohibit the use of nutrients and fertilization at farms that are in the watershed. George Pfaffenbach of 30 Hyde Farm asked if there was a possibility of upgrading the catch basins. Joe Carbonell from Mallard Cove explained that they are working on a future project to add filters into some storm drains. Judy Isele suggested a requirement for landscapers and contractors to be certified in best management practices. Chairman Kuhr asked Ms. Isele to draft a maintenance agreement to submit for consideration. Mr. Sennett suggested educating homeowners and contractors who do "do-it-yourself" projects and who may not be aware of the best management practices. There was a brief discussion about fertilization being done with no oversight or enforcement and for creating a thoughtful regulation that will have an insurance policy or some type of accountability for projects that are

done resulting in contamination. Donna Benito of 2A West Street would like to showcase homes on the lake that have buffers and other best management practices. Cathy Mayo of 50 Wangonk Trail re-iterated the need for educating the public on best management practices especially since there is no oversight on the products used by landscapers and lawn companies. Mr. DeCarli asked everyone at the meeting to submit comments, suggestions and thoughts in writing for consideration and discussion at the next meeting. Steve Trinkaus of Trinkaus Engineering provided an explanation of the connectiveness of impervious coverage. He added that soil testing may be helpful to decipher what nutrients are needed or may be omitted when fertilizing your lawn and that educating the public is an on-going process which is achievable. Chairman Kuhr thanked everyone for attending and providing suggestions and comments. Mr. DeCarli stated that the next meeting date will be posted on the Town website. The meeting ended at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Castonguay
Recording Secretary