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TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

7:00 PM

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

MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman Chuck Yenker, Wes Jenks, Marty Podskoch, Derek Johnson and John Purple with Recreation Director Shawn Mullen.

**Absent:** Cheryl Lobo, Victor Rodriguez, and Jason Hartling.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Yenker called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room and via Zoom. Mr. Purple was seated as an alternate member.

**Adoption of Agenda:** *A motion was made by M. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the addition of a brief presentation from John Tucci. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Approvals**

- a. **Minutes of Regular Meeting: February 8, 2024:** *A motion was made by Mr. Jenks, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve of the February 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes as submitted. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Public Remarks:** Jean Peterman, of 11 Hawthorn, brought more videos and pictures of the heavy amounts of runoff from the development onto her property that eventually goes into the lake.

Kevin Reed, of 5 Laughlin Road, also brought up the runoff crossing over his property the same as what Ms. Peterman is describing.

**Communications and Liaison Reports:** The education signs to stop invasive plants from entering the lake are priced \$19 to \$45. It was suggested to get an 18x24 sign where the boats are launched into the water. The largest sign that could be posted at Sear's Park would be 36x24 and \$96 in price. The members discussed that all watercrafts, not just boats, should be included in cleaning or washing off before entering the lake. Mr. Podskoch suggested purchasing five more signs to post in significant areas of the town. A couple signs would go to the lake associations in town as well. The boats and watercrafts should be cleaned off with hot water, pressurized air, and other methods before entering the lake. This would prevent the further spread of invasive plants entering the lake. There was another suggestion to add photos of kayaks and jet skis to the invasive signs. The Parks and Rec department can hand out flyers or pamphlets about invasive

plants and how to wash watercrafts when residents apply for boar passes. *A motion was made by Mr. Jenks, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to purchase and distribute signs to the associations to install themselves and the town to install at Sear's Park. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

## **Presentation**

- a. **In-Lake Treatment Plan- John Tucci:** Mr. Tucci gave a brief presentation to the members. A cost analysis would be needed for the filter grass material called Aquaflex. There was discussion of which inlets to install the Aquaflex and measurements would be needed to ensure the correct amount of material would be used. There were seven streams and inlets that were listed to be included in the proposal. The proposal from Mr. Tucci will be emailed to the members to review. The members may need to obtain Town Council approval for the proposal. It was suggested to talk with the Town Manager about the budget for the proposal. *A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to move forward with the Aquaflex installation in accordance with John Tucci's proposal. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

The bio blast treatment was brought up by Mr. Tucci as well. The in-lake treatment program has been working really well for the town. Mr. Tucci reviewed what the bio blast is and how it helps the lake. It is a multi-faceted approach for in-lake treatments. *A motion was made by Mr. Jenks, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to approve of Everblue Lakes' new distribution system for the bio blast treatment in the lake. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

**Plan Reviews:** None

**Watershed Project(s)/Federal Funding Update/AIS Funding:** There has been no response back, Mr. Mullins has reached out a couple of times. There is another application for funding being drafted for the Long Island Sound Future Fund. The organization is looking for projects to fund like the ones the commission and the town are taking on and already performing.

**Budget Update:** The members received an updated budget. About 79% of the budget this fiscal year has been spent so far. The new or proposed budget for the next fiscal year is nearly twice as much as the current budget.

## **Old Business**

- a. **Sub-Committee Report on Education/Lake Smart Program Sub-Committee Update:** There was no update for this topic.
- b. **Advisory Panel Update:** There was no meeting held.

**New Business:** GZA is in the works of a detailed survey of where hydrilla is in the lake. There is an herbicide treatment that is successful in eradicating hydrilla. A spot treatment to get the more concentrated areas of the invasive plant would be better than treating the whole lake. The treatment should be driven by the survey results from GZA. It was suggested to check once a month to keep an eye on the growth of the hydrilla after the herbicide treatment. There was a suggestion to add more money to the budget for the next fiscal year for in-lake treatments.

**Edgewater Development Water Problem:** The members discussed the heavy amounts of runoff coming from the development and infiltrating the lake. The developers and contractors should be using sediment curtains and other sediment erosion controls to curb the run off so it won't infiltrate the lake. The phlocklock treatment was brought up as an option for a solution to

the infiltrating runoff. There are two retention ponds on the property of the development, but they are really under-sized for the size of the development on site. Chairman Yenknor will talk with the Town Manager about the runoff problem. The issue is being brought to IWWA to review the facts and documented issues. The members discussed the town staff being more firm and aggressive with developers about runoff and infiltration of the lake from the work they perform. The public and members were encouraged to attend both the IWWA and Town Council meetings to discuss or make public remarks about the issues. The next Town Council meeting is March 26<sup>th</sup> and the next IWWA meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested to have representatives from Dream Developers attend a meeting to discuss fixing the runoff problems. The Chairman will also draft a letter to send to the members to review before formally sending to the IWWA, PZC, and Town Council.

**Public Remarks:** Patrick Rubega, of 57 Spellman Point Road, asked Mr. Tucci some clarifying questions about the bio blast treatment for the lake and about the aeration system.

Bob Yenknor, of 83 Spellman Pont Road, stated the lake coalition needs a head count for the commission meeting. Mr. Yenknor also stated that a brief article encouraging more public to attend the meetings for IWWA, PZC, and the Town Council to gain more public at the meetings, possibly more remarks, and to spread more awareness.

**Adjournment:** *Chairman Yenknor adjourned the meeting at 8:38 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk

