

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Melissa Engel, Vice Chairman Mark Philhower, Council Members Pete Brown, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich, Town Manager David Cox and Finance Director Jeffery Jylkka.

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Engel called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Markham, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special and Regular Meeting of August 13, 2019 as written. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting of August 16, 2019 as written. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Lake Algae Bloom Report/Discussion on Water Samples

Russell Melmed, Director of Health for the Chatham Health District, provided an overview of the weekly water sampling. They use Northeast Labs in Berlin. They were encouraged to try another lab and used the Northeast Aquatics Research Lab for evaluation purposes. There have been questions as to why the results varied so greatly. He indicated it could be the methodology of how the samples are counted at the different labs. The State doesn't do weekly sample counts, they use visual observation. Then when the water starts to clear they do tests for toxins. The biggest risk to people and pets is when there is a scum on top of the water. Mr. Melmed noted that he doesn't feel a weekly sample sent to the lab is needed. He would recommend regular visual observation. Training could be done by the State. He also would recommend the surveillance be open to all areas of the lake, not just Sears Park. Mr. Reich will provide some documents to the Council and Conservation-Lake Commission from the town of Brewster, MA on their work on blue green algae.

Draft Letter to Waterfront Residents

Council members reviewed a draft letter to waterfront residents. Mr. Markham recommended a sample reply within the letter and asked about the wording for the easements. The letter will be revised and reviewed at the next meeting.

Presentations

None

Public Remarks

Bob Yenknor, Spellman Point, commented that the Save Lake Pocotopaug Coalition is in favor of the letter and process for easements and buffer zones. He asked about the status of the 9-point plan. He referred to a letter in the Rivereast about a budget surplus and wanted to know if some of it would go to the lake and also asked if lake residents can file for a tax rebate because the lake was closed. Jeremy Hall, Parks & Recreation Director, replied that the grant has been signed by the Town and was sent back to the State. It will then go to the Attorney General, probably a 2-3 week process. Ms. Engel stated there are no tax rebates. Mr. Hall also noted that only Sears Park beach was closed not the whole lake. The lake was used by boaters during the Sears Park swimming closure. Mr. Jylkka said the article in the Rivereast referred to a forecasted budget surplus.

Andy Priest, Hawthorne Road, asked how fast the projects can be put together for the 9-point plan. It was noted that the Conservation-Lake Commission is working on the project selection and how the money is spent.

Bob Kovach, Clark Hill Road, commented that the behaviors of homeowners near the lake need to change.

Bids & Contracts

Award Proposal for Review of Water Services

Lori Mathieu, from the CT Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section, had recommended that the Town hire a firm to review the water proposals from Aquarion and CT Water. Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator, solicited proposals from engineering firms to review the proposals. Four proposals were received.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Brown, to award the review of water proposals from CT Water and Aquarion to DPC Engineering, LLC of Longmeadow, MA in the amount of \$18,284.40. Voted (7-0)

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

New Business

Approval of Police Department General Orders 5.10 and 5.22

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to waive the 2nd reading for this item. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to accept Police Department General Orders 5.10 Securing Prisoners and 5.22 Death Notifications as presented. Voted (7-0)

Proposal for Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for Property at 1 Watrous

Marketing the 1 Watrous Street property for sale has been difficult due to the uncertainty of its environmental status for potential buyers. It was recommended that a Phase I Environmental Assessment be performed. Jeremy DeCarli has been working with the CT Brownfields Land Bank to secure a grant for the assessment. Mr. Philhower voiced his concerns about using grant funds if there are stipulations on the funds that the property cannot be sold. This will be researched.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to award the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment contract to Blue River Engineering in the amount of \$2,200.00. Voted (7-0)

Appointments

Appointment of Town Manager to Chatham Health Board

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to appoint Town Manager David Cox to the Chatham Health Board. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

The Town Manager provided an overview of his report, which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Hall project is moving along. They will soon be ready for interior work including drywall. Photos and drone footage will be available soon. Mr. Cox thanked Jeff Jylkka for his work as the Interim Town Manager and thanked the department heads. He said the town has a great staff.

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$5,555.58. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Peter Zawisza, 8 Olde Flatbrook Road and Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission commented that he feels the town should continue with lab testing, not just visual observation in order to know when to apply product such as copper sulfate. He also commented that Dr. George's lab uses the standard method for counting and is unsure what the other lab uses.

Karen Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Road, Portland, welcomed the Town Manager and spoke about a long-ago concern of motorized boats on the lake.

Mr. Philhower asked when the stairs to the Building Department will be repaired.

Mr. Markham commented that nowhere in the 9 Point Plan is the Town Council, Town Manager or Board of Finance mentioned. He also noted the Conservation-Lake Commission or Town Council should meet with the Board of Education to talk about a possible a class for lake water testing.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk