

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Special Meeting  
Thursday, August 1, 2019  
East Hampton High School Auditorium

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairperson Melissa Engel, Vice Chairman Mark Philhower, Council Members Pete Brown, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich

**Also Present:** Interim Town Manager Jeffery Jylkka, Parks & Rec Director Jeremy Hall, Planning & Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli, Assessor Gail Gwiazdowski, Director of Health Russell Melmed, Conservation Lake members Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, John Purple and Marty Podskoch and Lake Limnologist Dr. George Knocklein and Engineer Steve Trinkus

**Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairperson Engel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The meeting was moved from the T-Bell to the Auditorium due to the number of attendees.

**Question & Answer Session Regarding Lake Pocotopaug**

Doreen Nablo, 43 Bay Road

Question: When will the permit be received from DEEP to do the copper sulfate treatment?

Answer: Dr. George indicated that the permit from the State may not be received for approximately 3 weeks. The paperwork did not get submitted by the treatment company, Solitude, in a timely manner. They are prepared to treat once the permit is received.

Jane Bisantz, Bay Road

Question: Have taxpayer dollars been spent on the treatment?

Answer: Taxpayer dollars were used for the application fee, but the Lake Commission has asked for a full refund due to their delay in sending in the application to the State.

Bob Yenknor, Spellman Point

Question: Will the treatment be done this year/How many Council members are committed to the 9 point plan?

Answer: There is a possibility for a treatment at the end of August but there is a question whether it is worth it. All 7 members of the Council indicated they are committed to the 9 point plan.

Amy Mrowka, Meeks Point

Question: Does Dr. George think the copper sulfate treatment is a bandaid? Is the algae toxic and is it tested?

Answer: The copper sulfate treatment is a bandaid, there are no long-lasting effects. The lake is dominated by algae with less toxicity.

Dave Bengston, Spellman Point

Question: Does the Council support the 9 point plan?

Answer: Yes, all 7 members support the 9 point plan.

Bill Zuleski, Spellman Point

Question: What is the cost of the copper sulfate treatment?

Answer: Approximately \$20,000 for 3 applications

Amy Ordonez, Main Street

Question: What are the side effects of the copper sulfate treatment?

Answer: Copper is toxic but the treatment is a low dosage and will only affect the phytoplankton.

Cheryl Anderson, Bay Road

Question: How long is the permit effective?

Answer: It is a 3 year permit.

Cap Egan, Lakewood Road

Question: What is the town doing on the 9 point plan?

Answer: Jeremy Hall responded that Clark Hill, Boulder Road, Mott Hill, Sears Park and Old Marlborough Rd are the first spots that would get retrofits to redirect water. The next areas are possibly Hales Brook, West Drive and Pocotopaug Drive. The town is waiting on the State for the grant sign off. The grant is \$236,000. Steve Trinkus indicated Clark Hill would be a grass swale, Boulder Road a wet swale, Mott Hill a wet swale into a catch basin, Old Marlborough Rod drainage work then a retrofit to filter, Sears Park is work on the boat parking and open cell pavers on the ramp and berms to the rain garden.

Judson Landon, Spellman Point

Question: Is Steve Trinkus a town employee?

Answer: No, a consultant

Andy Priest, Hawthorne Road

Question: How much of the 9 point plan will the \$236,000 grant cover? How much would the full 9 point plan cost to implement?

Answer: The first portion is \$60,000, then \$80,000 for the next portion. Once the initial areas are done the work will require easements from private property owner. Right now the town has \$236,000 coming in grant funds, \$232,000 in capital and \$40,000 in the Conservation-Lake operating budget. Joe Carbonell indicated the full 9 point plan would be \$10million. This amount was questioned by Council for confirmation.

Roger Abraham, Clark Hill

Question: How is the sewer system's integrity? He also believes the algae would become resistant to the copper sulfate.

Answer: There was no WPCA staff present to answer this question.

Wes Jenks, Meeks Point

Question: Why can't the capital funds be used for the initial projects? If there are \$10 million worth of fixes why can't new projects be brought up to use capital?

Answer: Jeremy Hall indicated that the State won't refund money used from other sources on the projects that have already been submitted. If the town uses capital on these projects then new projects need to be submitted to the State for the grant funds and it takes time to get new parts of the project approved.

Eric Rosenberg, Bay Road

Question: How many full-time employees are spearheading the project?

Answer: Two paid employees are committing 15-20 hours per week together on the project along with the engineer consultant.

Linda Schroth, Spellman Point

Question: There needs to be more transparency to show what projects are being done for the 9 point plan; Is Inland Wetlands giving any thought to updating guidelines?

Answer: The new Public Works Director is working on a listing that will be posted on the Town website. Jeremy DeCarli indicated that Inland Wetlands updated their regulations recently and Planning & Zoning is in the process of updating the Lake Pocotopaug Protection Zone. A workshop is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Library to review the draft regulation. There is also a brochure Protecting Lake Pocotopaug Initiative.

Tina Yenknner, Spellman Point

Question: How many points are completed?

Answer: Two points have been addressed by a private group, Friends of the Lake. The public Town portion can't really answer the full 9 points as it is a long term project that will continually be updated.

Marty Podskoch, O'Neill Lane

Question: What can be done on the land on O'Neill Lane that was donated to the town to help filtration?

Answer: Steve Trinkus will take a look at that property.

Resident, Spellman Point

Question: Why doesn't the town ban chemicals?

Answer: Mr. Trinkus indicated residents should test their soil and only put down what their lawn needs.

Cindy Tarbell, Lake Drive

Question: What is the 1<sup>st</sup> project?

Answer: Clark Hill, Boulder Road, Mott Hill

Judy Isele, Wangonk Trail

Provided statements from the 9 point plan

Resident, O'Neill Lane

Commented that the Yale School of Forestry may be able to provide some free assistance.

Mark Johnson, Mohawk Trail

Question: Asked for confirmation that the town won't be spending capital funds until the grant is used?

Answer: Correct – if town funds are used for the portions of the project that were already submitted to the State, the approval process will start over. The grant is set up for the first part of the plan.

Dave Yenker, Spellman Point

Question: Can the town let the lake residents know which easements are needed?

Answer: The town will reach out to the residents when the areas are reviewed.

Resident, Day Point Road

Question: Can the Council put rules on taking money out of capital funds for other things.

Answer: There are no specific rules for taking money for other projects.

Ms. Engel noted that she received emails and questions about property values. She asked the Assessor Gail Gwiazdowski to comment on this. Gail indicated that the market drives the revaluation. There will be an informational meeting with the revaluation company prior to the reval occurring. From 2016-2018, 40 homes were sold with sales prices 3.7% higher than the appraised price.

Mr. Philhower asked about the Old Marlborough sewer breaks noting that a pumper was there for 24 hours and the flow rate never stopped – shouldn't it have slowed overnight – is there infiltration? An answer will be obtained from WPCA staff.

Mr. Brown noted that the town needs votes to pass the budget. Everyone wants to fix the lake.

Mr. Markham noted fixing the lake is a long process and requires all taxpayers. He commented on what's already in the lake causing problems and maybe dredging along with assistance from the State would be a possibility. The dam is also an issue.

Mr. Piteo commented on needing the easements from property owners near the lake and spoke about the lake brochure.

Mr. Feegel noted the dam is an issue but that the town may not want to own the 66-year-old dam and its issues.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk