

East Hampton Conservation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 12, 2009  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Unapproved Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Zawisza called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Present:** Chairman Peter Zawisza, Members Patience Anderson, Peter Bergan, Michael Brogan, Duncan McNeill, and Allen Petell. The Town Manager, Jeff O'Keefe, and the Director of Community and Environmental Planning, Kerry Nielson, were also present.

**Not Present:** Member Mark Niosi.

*Chairman Zawisza made a motion to rearrange the Agenda. He would like Item 6.B. to be moved to the beginning of the Agenda. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**NOTE: FROM THIS POINT ON THE ORDER OF THE MEETING IS NOT IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE AGENDA. The item numbers correspond to the Agenda.**

6. **Old Business:**

**B. Discussion: Functional Assessment of Boards and Commissions:**

Mr. O'Keefe introduced the new Director of Environmental and Community Planning, Kerry Nielson, to the Commission. He explained that she was raised in Connecticut and comes to East Hampton via Florida. She has a master's degree in regional planning and a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences. Ms. Nielson will be the staff person for the Conservation Commission and the Lake Commission. She will assist with combination of the Conservation and Lake Commission by revision of their ordinances. Ms. Nielson has begun rewriting the ordinance. Mr. O'Keefe discussed the process of combining the two commissions. Members of the Commission posed various question to Mr. O'Keefe regarding the process.

2. **Communications, Liaison Reports, Committee Reports and Public Comments:**

**Communications:** There were none at this time.

**Liaison Reports:**

Mr. McNeill reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed the possibility of purchasing a parcel of land on White Birch. The owner has approached the Advisory Board and would like the Town to consider purchasing his property as open space. Mr. McNeill discussed the property and suggested that it would be appropriate for the Conservation Commission to be involved. Chairman Zawisza will speak to the Director of Parks & Recreation about any input the Conservation Commission may provide regarding these potential

acquisition. The minutes of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are available online on the Town's Website and in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Chairman moved the presentation by Jim Gibbons, NEMO Program of UCONN, up on the agenda.

**5. New Business:**

**A. Fee In Lieu of Open Space Presentation: Jim Gibbons, Co-Founder of the NEMO Program, UCONN:**

Jim Gibbons, UCONN Extension System, introduced himself and his presentation. He explained that tonight he will be focusing on the regulation subdivision and the town's ability to ask for dedication of open space or a payment in lieu of that dedication. \*Attachment 1\*

**2. Communications, Liaison Reports, Committee Reports and Public Comments Continued:**

**Liaison Reports Continued:**

Mr. McNeill continued with his report on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting and asked that the commissioners and staff complete the survey that was distributed by Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Petell reported on the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA). He welcomed Ms. Nielson and reported that Keith Hayden, Public Works Director, will serve as the Wetlands Enforcement Officer. Mr. Petell further reported that Skyline Estates did dredge Hale Brook Pond and removed 850 cubic yards of debris, of that 4.64 lbs was potentially phosphorous that would have found its way to the Lake. He reported that the IWWA is waiting for a phosphorous study update before they make any further moves on the fertilizer ordinance. Mr. Petell also explained that timber harvests are an exempt activity and allowed as of right as an agricultural activity in Connecticut. If the activity breaches a wetland area, the IWWA may have jurisdiction and they may regulate the activity. The minutes to this meeting are available online on the Town's website or may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Brogan reported on the recent meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission. He reported that the Developmental Review Checklist was distributed, the Chairman requested that the Commissioners review the Checklist, and that it be added to their next agenda. The minutes for this meeting are available online on the Town's website or may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Ms. Anderson reported that she attended the Lake Pocotopaug Commission (LPC) meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>. She reported that they discussed the Hale Pond dredging, voted unanimously to earmark \$10,000 of their budget for an engineering study, purchased an \$800 EnviroScape Watershed Non-Point Source Educational Kit and purchased drain stencils for the storm drains in town. Ms. Anderson further reported that Thad King, Director of the Chatham Health

District, made a presentation to the Lake Commission regarding healthy septic systems. Finally, she reported that the Lake Commission and the Town Council have asked for support from Lake Clean-Up Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The minutes for this meeting are available online on the Town's website and may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Ms. Anderson reported that she also attended the Tri-Board Meeting of the Board of Finance, Town Council, and Board of Education on February 26<sup>th</sup>. They distributed a summary of the Town Manager's budget and will be meeting again on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to aggressively go through the budget and attain no increase over last year, if at all possible. The minutes of this meeting are available online on the Town's website and may be viewed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Ms Anderson reported that there will be a public hearing on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for the easement necessary for the pump station owned and operated by the WPCA. This easement will be on property owned by American Distilling. She also reported that the new Director of Public Works, Keith Hayden, is producing quite a bit of good work, including three area road improvements. There will be a Mother Board meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the Chairmen of the land use boards.

Finally, Ms Anderson reported that the Brownfields Steering Committee and the Redevelopment Agency are being combined and positioned under the umbrella of the Economic Development Commission. The Chairmen have been able to work well together and have drafted a new ordinance for the new combined board. She has reviewed this ordinance and believes it to be very well drafted.

**Public Comments:**

John Jordan, Pine Trail, expressed his concerns that any water softener products with sodium will cause high blood pressure.

John Ciriello, Childs Road, returned the banner for the Earth Day Celebration. The Commission discussed with him the possibility of holding another celebration this year.

**6. Old Business:**

**A. Inventory/Index of Open Spaces:** Ms. Nielson updated the Commission on this initiative. She has been in touch with Emily Wilson who has been assisting the Commission with the process of open space mapping. She also updated the Commission on the GIS website which has been launched. The website address is <http://host.appgeo.com/EastHamptonct>.

**3. Acceptance of Minutes of February 12, 2009:**

**A. February 12, 2009 Regular Meeting:** *Ms. Anderson moved to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2009 meeting. Mr. Petell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**4. Review: None.**

5. **Adjournment:** *Mr. Brogan moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*  
The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne Schaub  
Recording Secretary