**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

**CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:**  Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Irene Curtis, Wesley Jenks, Tom O’Brien, Martin Podskoch

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:03 p.m.

**Seating of Alternates:**

No alternates

**Approval of Minutes: July 9, 2015**

A motion was made by Ms. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Carbonell to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting, noting that Mr. Podskoch’s name has no “t” in it and will need to be corrected in a few places. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

**Communications and Liaison Reports:**

None

**Public Remarks:**

Susan Woodson of 31 Bay Road, along with Liz and Dave Bengtson of 82 Spellman Point Road, asked how they and their associations can find out more about the condition of the lake and be productive toward helping improve it. This led to a discussion regarding the blue-green algae and the science, safety and ideas of remedies for it. Mr. Carbonell mentioned that he may be able to attend an association meeting to talk more about the discussion started at the Conservation-Lake Commission meeting and also asked them to look at the website and print some of the information pamphlets to distribute. Some ideas mentioned toward raising awareness were that residents on the lake can be encouraged not to fertilize their lawn as the Nitrogen seeps into lake, residents should not have grass clippings in or near the lake, the placing of rain gardens, working on catch basins that are on private property, encouraging residents to come to town meetings and speak up about the issue, writing a letter directly to the Town Council on Association letterhead, etc.

**Plan Review:**

None

**Old Business:**

1. **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** None
2. **Advisory Panel Update:** Currently none; will be starting up in the fall

Chairman Zawisza mentioned that Jeff Foran, the Chair of the Wetland Commission, stated that in regards to the plan the Commission reviewed regarding bridge repair at Pine Brook the engineer incorporated the Commission’s comments verbatim into the plan.

**New Business:**

Mr. Carbonell discussed his meeting with Mr. Maniscalco and State Representative Melissa Ziobron at Experimental Station in the New Haven area. There is currently $100,000 for 2016 & 2017 each earmarked for Lake Pocotopaug, with certain criteria as to how it can and can’t be used. The presentation that the Experimental Station came up with was multi-fold and includes validating prior reports on the lake, but to run a DNA study on the algae to hopefully find its origin and try to come up with antibodies that may be able to kill it before it blooms. This type of test has not been discussed at the State level. If it doesn’t end up helping us it would still be helpful to other lakes in the area. The lab seemed confident in their presentation and has agreed to work with Dr. George to facilitate transfer of information.

This led to a general discussion on whether this will help and if the current strain of algae will be tackled. The influx of other chemicals could still cause algae growth even if it’s not the same strain. Mr. Maniscalco stated that if there is this cutting edge study that shows that the algae in our lake is toxic, it could lead to more money in the form of grants, toward alleviating the problem.

The Commission agrees that it’s a good idea to allow the State to move forward with the study.

Ms. Curtis brought up the question of whether the dam was going to be open going in the fall. Discussion occurred regarding the dam and how it is being managed and the possible damage that can occur without opening it.

Mr. Podskoch mentioned that he was recently giving a talk at Lake George and spoke with a limnologist at RPI and learned that bubblers may work for ponds, and certain schools like RPI are having their students study lakes nearby. Mr. Carbonell also showed a photo of the boat washing station at Lake George and how this keeps things like invasive plants and creatures from coming into the lake. He mentioned that this is something that would be great to see at Lake Pocotopaug, or at least training of the staff to educated boaters about making sure they are washed before entering the lake.

A general discussion followed about training of the staff at Sears Park. It was also discussed that even if the public beaches are closed due to algae bloom, the Town cannot legally close the lake to boats.

**Public Remarks**

None

**Adjournment**

Mr. Podskoch made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. O’Brien at 8:07 p.m. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti

Recording Secretary