**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

**CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY January 14, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**  Chairman Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Irene Curtis, Bob Hart, John Roche, Martin Podskoch, Phil Sissick (Public Works Director)

**Absent:** Wes Jenks, Tom O’Brien

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:00 p.m. He introduced two new Commission members – John Roche and Bob Hart.

**Seating of Alternates:**

Mr. Hart was seated as an alternate

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch and seconded by Mr. Carbonell to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0, with Ms. Curtis abstaining.

**Communications and Liaison Reports:**

Public Works Director Sissick reported that at the last Town Council meeting the one year contract for Northeast Aquatic Research was approved. Surveyors have started working on the boundary survey for the O’Neill Lane property. There is currently no funding for this so some Public Works funds are being used. The STEAP Grant application should be submitted tomorrow (Fri 1/15/16) by the Town Manager; the grant writer feels that this will meet with approval by the State.

Mr. Podskoch reported that the Energy Task Force is still looking for two more members; they have not yet been able to make a quorum.

**Public Remarks:**

Alannah Coshow of 26 Shipyard Rd., Middle Haddam, introduced herself as the new Board of Finance Liaison to the Commission and asked to know if anything financial comes up so she can be present.

**Plan Review:**

None

**Watershed Proposal Update:**

Chairman Zawisza reported that the contract has been awarded to Northeast Aquatics and that they will send updates each month. As of now they have finished entering all the 2015 data into the computer and commenced with the analysis of the storm water data to identify sub-watersheds and compare to those identified in previous studies and brainstorm potential fixes. They would like to meet with Mr. Sissick to discuss options for nutrient load reductions in January. They would like to set up a meeting with Anchor Engineering in January or February to discuss plans and develop a budget and come up with prices for watershed fixes.

**Old Business:**

1. **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** No report; they should start meeting soon.
2. **Advisory Panel Update:** The calendar of meetings was put together, Mr. Carbonell will send it out to all advisory panel members and post the dates at the Town Hall. A brief discussion to explain the Advisory Panel to the new members occurred.

**New Business:**

A discussion was held on submitting numbers for the upcoming budget by Jan. 21. Mr. Carbonell stated that he would try to get some numbers from Northeast Aquatic before then. There was discussion on operating vs. capital budgets and what should be proposed and how it should be earmarked. Since the 9-point plan isn’t yet complete there was talk of earmarking money for things such as “water quality infrastructure” or “lake improvement projects” since they are not specifically identified yet, although there is some idea of what they will most likely be. Mr. Sissick encouraged the commission to think of future projects in incremental phases for budgeting purposes. Chairman Zawisza mentioned line items for Dr. George and ongoing testing, conferences, and Airline Trail signage.

Mr. Sissick made a suggestion that the Commission set up a workshop in early spring or summer, similar to the large meeting at the Middle School last fall, to keep the community abreast of what is happening with the lake and the 9 point plan instead of having a reactionary meeting later in the year. He stated that if this happens, public support could be gained early and could help with next year’s budgeting cycle.

Mr. Hart suggested community updates in the Rivereast by way of letters to the editor written by himself or another commission member.

Mr. Roche suggested printing up flyers and stated that he would hand them to boaters as he is on the lake often. He also brought up the idea of stocking alewives to the commission.

Mr. Podskoch talked about a suggestion from the Friends of the Lake meeting to put alum in the lake as a temporary solution to the algae bloom. Discussion followed. Mentioned was that they would need to obtain a permit from the DEEP to do so, and Chuck Lee is not sold on the idea and probably would not issue a permit for this.

Mr. Carbonell stated that there are two upcoming meetings of interest: February 21, 2016 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Angelico’s Lake House there will be an open meet and greet for all Associations around the lake to share ideas. Also in Goshen on March 12 there will be a CT Federation of Lakes Annual Meeting and roadshow. The cost is $25/person. There will be presentations by CT Lake experts and organizations along with a meal. This last meeting could be of particular interest to anyone wondering about different chemical applications or ideas on fixes for the blooms as previously mentioned.

**Public Remarks**

George Coshow of 26 Shipyard Rd. stated that when he was part of the EDC, they used to send updates to the Rivereast in the form of a press release, which would be published on the East Hampton pages. This helped them gain a public audience steadily.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Podskoch made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roche, at 7:56 p.m.. Motion passed by a vote of 5-0 (Ms. Curtis was not present during this vote.)

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti

Recording Secretary