**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

**CONSERVATION-LAKE COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**THURSDAY April 14, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**  Chairman Peter Zawisza, Joe Carbonell, Bob Hart, Irene Curtis, Tom O’Brien, John Roche

**Absent:**  Wes Jenks, Martin Podskoch

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zawisza at 7:00 p.m.

**Seating of Alternates:** Mr. Hart was seated as an alternate

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Ms. Curtis to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting. Motion passed with a vote of 6-0.

**Communications and Liaison Reports:** None

**Public Remarks:**

Roger Abraham of 47 Clark Hill Road, advisor to the EHHS Environmental Club, presented two letters to the Commission. The first was from Mr. Abraham stating that he is helping student Ehren Meisinger with his hydroponic island to help determine the feasibility of creating artificial wetlands and wants to make sure that they are all set to deploy the island and are not violating any rules of the DEEP. The botany class is collecting plants for the island from various streams that feed the lake, they make sure to avoid invasive species. He thanked the CLC and will keep Dr. Knoecklein apprised of their testing/monitoring.

The second letter was from student Ehren Meisinger, asking permission for the hydroponic island placement in the lake. He identified two sites with two alternates and noted that he and his father would be happy to take interested members out and show them the locations. Two islands have been ordered and paid for (one completely funded by the Meisinger family), each is 5’ x 8’. They will test them first without vegetation for mooring, then will add the vegetation for more testing. One will have aquatic plants, the other will have land plants with roots in the water. These will be monitored and tested every day. He will also be evaluating the ability of the islands to winter in the lake. He requests approval to deploy the islands.

In response, Mr. Carbonell stated that they can deploy the islands on the recommendation of the Friends of the Lake, but he noted that this needs to be in a beta-type environment. He suggests the Halls brook/pond location, from there they have permission to launch it from the sidewalk. Per Chuck Lee at the DEEP they do not yet have the luxury to launch it in the lake, unless it is adjacent to land as a floating dock would be. There was further discussion on the feasibility of a long-term solution using the islands, with Mr. Hart questioning what data was available to know how many might be needed in our lake.

Alannah Coshow, Board of Finance members, asked (in regards to a comment made about the Friends of the Lake purchasing buoys/markers) if the line-item on the Public Works budget for money to purchase buoys and markers was necessary. Mr. Carbonell and Ms. Curtis answered that they could be replacing them as they were purchased ten years ago, or purchasing chains and/or anchors for them, but that she would need to speak further with Public Works.

**Plan Review:**

**Steve Acerbo: 4-Lot subdivision & as-of-right timber harvest – 000 rear Old Young St.. Map 14/Block 31A/Lot 9:**  *A motion was made by Mr. Carbonell, seconded by Mr. O’Brien, to recommend approving the application as submitted. Voted 6-0.*

**Watershed Proposal Update:**

Northeast Aquatics Research (NEAR) reports that they are working on the 9-point plan and have about 10 pages written. They are have nutrient flow calculations from 2014 & 2016 samples and have developed mass balance phosphorous comparisons with the 2009 ACOMM LLRN model. They are looking for most updated regulations from P&Z and IWWA (which has been done).

**Old Business:**

1. **Sub-Committee Report on Education:** Mr. Carbonell and Mr. Hart attended the CT Federation of Lakes annual meeting and training and gave notes on what was talked about there. Another meeting will be held soon. Some items they mentioned as points of discussion: information on how to form lake associations, low-impact developments (LID) and ordinances, tax district formation, funding strategies, etc.
2. **Advisory Panel Update:** Next meeting is Monday 4/18/16.

**New Business:**

Mr. Carbonell reminded those present that the Lake Cleanup will be held April 23 at 9:00 a.m. at Sears Park.

A request has been put in for the Commission’s table at Old Home Days.

An email was received from George Coshow regarding his comprehensive thoughts on Lake Pocotopaug. This document and the ideas enclosed were discussed at length and the document was forwarded to Dr. Knoecklein and NEAR. Discussions centered around the idea of pumping treated water into the lake rather than the river, trying to get zoning rules passed and enforced, and in-lake treatments.

Mr. Carbonell noted that funding has been approved for the Airline Trail extension; signage will need to be discussed at some point in the future.

A discussion occurred on fish in the lake and how in-lake treatments would affect them, and whether walleye are stocked (they are).

**Public Remarks**

Alannah Coshow stated (in regard to the discussion on enforcing zoning regulations) that the conversation was correct; the ZBA, IWWA and CLC make edicts, but no one is enforcing the regulations made. She asked if the lake has carp and discussed the “carpaggedon” that occurs on another lake that she’s aware of in CA – because this lake uses a copper treatment and the carp break the seal of the treatment.

Another member of the public stated that use could be made of the town-wide (free) texting system to educate people about using fertilizers, etc. as a small blurb in the Rivereast can tend to get lost. Commission members questioned whether the system could be used for something to that nature. Further discussion occurred on the use of Facebook to educate, inserts in the Rivereast, and contacting the lake associations.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Carbonell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Roche, at 8:26 p.m.. Motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti

Recording Secretary